Interact Club presidents take part in New Generations Officers Training. PAGE 2
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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Local funds used to pay PSS settlement

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Flores

The Public School System has reportedly used local funds to pay a recent settlement.

During PSS' budget hearing before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means last Tuesday, it was learned that a recent PSS settlement that made headlines was paid by local funds.

Although the specific settlement was not disclosed during

See FUNDS on Page 4

CNMI RURAL TRANSIT DAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang recently proclaimed July 16, 2024 as "CNMI Rural Transit Day." They were joined by special assistant for Transportation Alfreda Camacho Maratita and members of the CNMI Office of Transit Authority. Palacios highlighted the vital role of transit systems in connecting communities, boosting the economy, and improving quality of life, while Apatang praised the COTA team for their work and the positive community feedback.

Ex-cop whose gun injured minor gets one-year prison sentence

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family and friends surround and embrace former police officer Raymond Lizama Saralu after his sentencing yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

» **Judge suspends remaining 4 years**

Raymond Lizama Saralu, a former police officer who pled guilty for improperly storing a firearm, which consequently severely injured a child in May 2023, was sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison yesterday at the Superior Court. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, however, suspended four years of the jail term with the 28-year-old Saralu

See EX-COP on Page 4

ARPA funds placed in investment account garnered over $700K in interest

Agulto

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Rescue Plan Act funds that were placed in investment accounts have garnered over $700,000 in

The American Rescue Plan Act funds that were placed in investment accounts have garnered over $700,000 in interest, according to CNMI Treasurer Asuncion Connie" Agulto.

Last Tuesday, Department of Finance Secretary Tracy Norita and Agulto appeared before the Senate special committee on the Bank of Guam investment account ($225 million) and American Rescue Plan Act

See ARPA on Page 4

DPS: Marpi bones make up two sets of human remains

Manacop

» **But 1 incomplete set appears more recent**

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Public Safety confirmed yesterday that two sets of human remains found in Marpi last week are from World War II, however, they added that one incomplete set of human remains appears to be less than 20 years old.

In a press release yesterday, assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop shared that the investigation provided

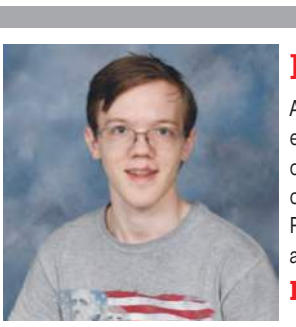
See DPS on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

The Rota Small Business Development Center is excited to remind the community about the upcoming "Christmas in July" celebration happening this weekend at the Sinapalo Children's Center, Rota.

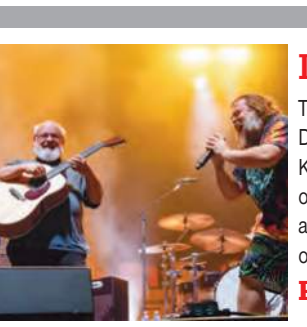
PAGE 10



NATION

After three days, an enigmatic portrait emerged of the 20-year-old man who came close to killing former President Donald Trump with a high-velocity bullet.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

The comedy rock duo Tenacious D—made up of Jack Black and Kyle Gass—has canceled the rest of their tour after Gass' remarks about the assassination attempt on Donald Trump.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Interact Club presidents take part in New Generations Officers Training

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the New Generations Officers Training take a group photo after their training last Friday at Saipan Southern High School in Koblerville. Rotary Club of Saipan president Joann Aquino (ninth from left) poses with Interact Club officers Sunny Ma (MHS Interact vice president), Somie Sablan (SIS Interact president), Zachary Dafrow (KHS Interact PRO), Mary Aguila (KHS Interact parliamentarian), Keaulei Deleon Guerrero (KHS Interact secretary), Evangeline Taitingfong (KHS Interact president), Angel Soguilon (SSHS Interact past president), Princes Castro (SSHS Interact past treasurer), Kayla Yi (SSHS Interact immediate past president), Stephanie Sexon (SSHS Interact secretary), Monica Shilling (SSHS Interact treasurer), Memama Asep (SSHS Interact president), Genelin Camacho (Rotaract Club of Saipan president), and Rosalyn Ajoste (SSHS Interact co-advisor).

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By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Interact Club presidents on Saipan took part in their first New Generation Officers Training last Friday at Saipan Southern High School in Koblerville.

The NGOT session was participated by the presidents of the four Interact clubs, Evangeline Taitingfong of Kagman High School Interact Club, Gwanpil Son of Marianas High School Interact Club, Soledad Sablan of Saipan International School Interact Club, and Memama Asep of SSHS Interact Club and facilitated by the SSHS Interact Club immediate past president Kayla Li and SSHS Interact club advisor Genelin Anne Camacho.

According to Camacho, the training was supposed to be done last year but due to facilitator's conflicts of schedule, the training was only held last Friday. NGOT was created to mirror the President-Elect Training Seminar of the Rotary Club.

"Per our PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar) in Guam back in May, our assistant district governor this year informed us that going forward, we should have our own PETS-style seminar in all of our clubs, including Interact and Rotaract, so that we can achieve growth and continuity in and among our clubs. On the other hand, my former students and fellow leaders suggested the idea before as well," she said.

The training includes the history of the Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact as well as Rotary's vision statement—"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and ourselves."

Li shared during the training how she wished they had more guidance and training in the past as this could have helped her and fellow Interact leaders have more structure and direction in the club.

Meanwhile, Taitingfong shared her experience on the training.

"I have learned the history of Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact and the people who started it and what this organization does that is spread around the world for their communities. The best part is meeting new people, sharing ideas on what we can do to combine schools, to create fun and impactful events for our island and the villages we can help. As president, my club needs to be more involved in our island and organize volunteer activities such as beach cleanups, school functions, and ensure a safe environment for everyone. To be able to do that we collaborate with Rotary and Rotaract and other schools on what are some ideas we can implement to give back to our community by fostering a positive change and supporting local needs," she said.

Camacho added to improve their recruitment and retention program, they will also be conducting a Rotaract-led training.

"In the future, we will have a Rotaract-led training so as to provide a more structured guidance and ongoing support for our Interact clubs and to implement one of our Rotary district's goals of recruiting and retaining Interactors, Rotaractors, and Rotarians in our region, a part of our strategic planning for the next few years; also, we are considering rotating the training facilitation so that all clubs have the chance to lead the seminar."

MHS is the first Interact Club founded in 2012, followed by Kagman High School Interact Club in 2015. The third and fourth Interact Clubs were Saipan International School Interact Club and Saipan Southern High School Interact Club, respectively, both founded in September 2017. Green Meadows High School was recently added when it was officially chartered in April 2024.

New robotics program set to transform STEM education in CNMI public schools

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Preston Basa, Marianas High School vice principal; Frank Ada, HR director, Triple J; Fred Camacho, Business Development manager, Triple J; Mario Valentino, senior superintendent, Triple J; Dr Lawrence Camacho, Education Commissioner; Mike Sablan, vice president, Triple J; Jose Mafnas, Jr., Corporate counsel, Triple J; Melanie Sablan-Rdiall, MHS vice principal; Deanna Reyes, Surfrider Hotel manager; Kina Peter, CPA, Corporate controller, Triple J; Dr. Marifi Doculan, Dolphins Robotics Club advisor; and A. Romolo Orsini, MHS vice principal.

Students in the CNMI are set to benefit from an exciting new initiative aimed at enhancing STEM education. An effort driven by Saipan native and Google employee Adeleyah Mojica, in partnership with the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation and supported by Google, will bring cutting-edge robotics programs to public high schools in Saipan. This initiative is also supported by the generous contribution of Triple J, who is providing free shipping for the necessary equipment.

The initiative will launch with a pilot grant in both Marianas High School and Kagman High School, introducing students to the world of robotics and digital skills. The program is designed to inspire and empower the next generation of innovators, giving them hands-on experience with advanced technology and fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The hope is that the pilot grant will demonstrate such strong success and compelling metrics that it will evolve into a long-term program, providing resources to compete at a high level.

"This program represents an incredible opportunity for our students to engage with STEM in a way that is both practical and inspiring," said Mike Sablan, vice president of Triple J. "We are proud to support this initiative by ensuring the equipment arrives safely in Saipan. It's about giving back to our community and investing in the future of our youth."

Through the partnership, Mojica has been working closely with RECF to ensure that students in the CNMI have access to the same high-quality STEM education as their peers worldwide. The introduction of robotics programs is expected to ignite students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, preparing them for future careers in these fields.

"Bringing robotics to our public high schools is a game-changer for education in the CNMI," said Mojica, executive business partner for Google. "This initiative will provide students with valuable skills and experiences that will open doors to future opportunities. We are thrilled to see the impact this program will have on their education and their lives. I hope this also inspires others who have roots in Saipan to find ways to give back to our island community, supporting and making a positive impact on the next generation."

The Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to enhancing student engagement in STEM through robotics and competition-based learning. By partnering with Google and receiving logistical support from Triple J, the foundation is bringing this mission to life on Saipan.

The robotics program aims to create an engaging and supportive learning environment where students can explore their interests in STEM. With the introduction of these new resources, students will be able to participate in robotics competitions, collaborate on projects, and develop a deeper understanding of technological concepts.

Dr. Marifi Doculan of Marianas High School and Maria Ornes of Kagman High School, the leads for their respective schools, expressed their excitement about the program. Doculan stated, "This pilot grant is a wonderful opportunity for our students to engage with cutting-edge technology and develop skills that will be essential in their future careers. It will revolutionize the way our students approach learning, making it more interactive and hands-on. We believe this will not only enhance their educational experience but also inspire them to pursue careers in STEM fields, where they can continue to innovate and make significant contributions. We are deeply grateful to Google, RECF, and Triple J for making this program possible and for their commitment to our students' futures."

Ornes added, "We are thrilled at Kagman High School about the new robotics equipment arriving! It's going to transform the way our students learn and engage with problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity. Students will have the chance to explore, experiment, and innovate in ways that were previously not possible. We can't wait to see what they'll create and accomplish with the new robotics equipment and the incredible learning opportunities it will provide. This journey of discovery and growth will be amazing for everyone involved! We want to express our deepest thanks and gratitude to Google, the REC Foundation, and Triple J for creating possibilities for our students by sponsoring this pilot program, and a special shout-out to Adeleyah Mojica for being the spark of innovation for CNMI students."

Dr. Lawrence Camacho, commissioner of Education and superintendent of CNMI Public School System, also expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative. "This is a monumental step forward for our education system in the CNMI. The introduction of robotics programs in our high schools is an exciting development that will provide our students with unique opportunities to learn and grow. We are committed to supporting this initiative and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our students and their future prospects."

For the students of CNMI, this initiative promises to be a transformative experience, equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving technological landscape. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Jose Mafnas, Jr., Corporate counsel, Triple J; Francisca Bondoc, Kagman High School vice principal; Rachel Roque, Leasing manager, Triple J; Deanna Reyes, Surfrider Hotel manager; Frank Ada, HR director, Triple J; Shirley Norita, KHS vice principal; Kina Peter, CPA, Corporate controller, Triple J; and Ringo Medina, assistant operations manager, Triple J Catering.

Carl Lou Q. Espinosa, Chairman | John Attao, Vice Chairman | April D. Manglona, Secretary | VACANT, Treasurer | VACANT, Board Member

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD

Municipality of Tinian and Augiguan

PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-0504 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, July 19, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room, San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of the Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  - Minutes (September 11, 2023) Tabled
  - Minutes (July 12, 2024)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS*
III. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Review of Policies and Procedures

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Amend on record the determination of Scholarship Awards for Spring 2024

V. MISCELLANEOUS
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

[1] *We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.*
[2] *Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.*
[3] *Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.*

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Amendment No. 2

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
(This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)

NMHC IFB 2024-006

MARIANAS HIGH-SCHOOL CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting sealed bids for the Marianas High-School Career Technical Education Center Construction Project.

The proposed project activity will be an approximately 42,000 square-foot, reinforced concrete two story building. The new facility will include technical education classrooms include automotive workshop, culinary arts training kitchen, performing arts theatre, mock-up hotel room, various classrooms, flexible spaces, electrical room, telecom room, storage space, office space, designated loading area, restrooms, fire pump room, water tank, exterior walkways, and an exterior enclosure for mechanical equipment.

The site improvements include perimeter sidewalks, training kitchen garden, grading as the building is raised 2' above existing grade, driveway to allow vehicles access to the theatre back of house, and driveway to the automotive workshop.

Site water will be connected through a new connection along Beach Road. The facility's sanitary sewer system will connect to the existing sewer gravity lines within the campus Power will be routed from Beach Road and to a new pad mounted transformer just west of the building.

The project is funded through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the CNMI Office of the Governor, Public Assistance Office (PAO). EDA and HUD funding will be utilized for the superstructure and site improvements.

The Project Package will be available beginning **April 30, 2024**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **May 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2024-006.** For Bidders within the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies of sealed bids and one (1) USB flash drive must be submitted to the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 p.m. ~~July 05, 2024~~ July 19, 2024.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. **Notice of Intent** to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, **~~July 05, 2024~~ July 19, 2024,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 234-9021, or via email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies and one (1) USB Flash Drive of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **~~July 05, 2024~~ July 19, 2024,** and must be received at NMHC no later than **~~July 16, 2024~~ July 30, 2024.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan at **2:30 p.m.** local **~~July 05, 2024~~ July 19, 2024.** However, if notice of intent to bid is received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. local time on **~~July 17, 2024~~ July 31, 2024**

Bid Security: Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid which maybe a Bid Bond (form enclosed) in cash, by certified check, cashiers' check or other form acceptable to NMHC.

Bidding Procedures shall be in compliance with the NMHC Procurement Regulations (NMIAC § 100-60)

Breach of Ethical Standard

NMIAC § 100-60-725 (a) Gratuities and Kickbacks

Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor.

Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order.

NMIAC 100-60-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees

Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure NMHC contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

ARPA

From page 1

spending plans for the CNMI to answer questions regarding ARPA funds and how they were handled under the previous administration.

Agulto told the special committee that the $225 million in ARPA funds in question that were placed in a BOG investment account during the previous administration accrued interest of $728,000.

Senate floor leader Sen. Corina Magofna (D-Saipan), during her line of questioning, asked Asuncion if it is common practice to place federal funds in investment accounts.

"I believe the intent of ARPA funds was to pay for the spending plan, do you know if part of the spending plan was to take a sum of the money and put it into an investment account? Is it allowed to take federal funds and put them in an investment account to generate income. Did you find that concerning that it was put into an investment account," asked Magofna.

To which, Agulto shared that it is not, but previous Finance secretaries did take local funds (totaling $50 million) and placed them into investment accounts.

"Prior to ARPA, I've never seen federal grants placed into investment accounts. Former secretaries [have] placed local funds in investment accounts. It's not a common practice anymore but it has happened. Around $50 million," she said.

In addition, Agulto shared that the previous administration's ARPA expenditures were all over the place and now, over a year since taking on the daunting task to properly record and recoup ARPA funds, DOF is still in the process of reconciliation.

However, as for the $225 million, Agulto adds that to this day what the $225 million that was discovered in an investment account was used for remains undetermined.

"The team has done a lot to right the wrongs, record them, you will see those in the report. As far as what the $225 million was used for, we cannot really determine that just that it went back to ARPA therefore that's available for spending," she said.

Previously, the Senate special committee on the Bank of Guam investment account ($225 million) and ARPA spending plans for the CNMI voted in favor of issuing a subpoena against Agulto to answer questions regarding a trust account opened by the previous administration using ARPA funds in the amount of $225 million.

The Finance secretary, for her part, expressed that Finance and Agulto stand ready to answer questions and provide all requested documents without a subpoena.

Previously, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) made an Open Government Act request to the Department of Finance regarding any information about the trust account that was opened by the previous administration using ARPA funds in the amount of $225 million.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

EX-COP

From page 1

to serve the remaining year at the Department of Corrections.

According to an order from Camacho, Saralu will be eligible for parole after serving 1/3 of the unsuspended sentence. If granted parole, in addition to any other conditions imposed by the Board of Parole, Saralu shall be employed and a portion of his salary shall pay for restitution of the victim's medical expenses.

Initially, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds proposed a sentence of five years, two years to serve with the remaining three years to be suspended; with five years of probation, restitution, and counseling. Hinds explained his stance and recommendations bringing up other allegations in the case.

"This is a tragic, horrible case, and I agree with some of the speakers that this is a terrible case. There are no winners in a case like this. Nobody wins. I've spent many hours myself trying to deal with the circumstances of this case. This is one of the hardest cases that I've had to work on. At the end, I come back to what this case is about. And this case is about the law. Storage of firearms. What is the reason a person must store their firearms safely? It's to make sure that no one gets injured, especially a child. In this case, a 7-year-old child was seriously injured. All because the defendant could not follow the law. The defendant is a police officer. He was a police officer at the time, and he did not follow the law. All of these factors have to be taken into account."

He also acknowledged Saralu's remorse. "I do take into account the defendant has taken responsibility in this case."

Saralu's counsel, assistant public defender Emily Thomsen, recommended a sentence of two years with three months to serve, the remainder suspended, 100 hours of community work service, with restitution to be determined.

She argued prosecution about sentence, saying that Saralu shouldn't be serving time based on additional allegations outside the current case, but time allotted should be according to the case at hand.

"Those are all allegations, obviously. As you know, your honor, none of those charges have ever been proven...So to punish him for allegations is not appropriate. The appropriate thing, and what is before you, your honor, here today, is to determine the appropriate sentence for the charge that he has been convicted of, that he has taken responsibility for, and that he has acknowledged, and that is what is before you today."

Camacho agreed with her stance.

Just before the final sentencing, the dozens of family members and friends that filled the courtroom yesterday on behalf of Saralu, shared heartfelt words pertaining to the character of Saralu, and many tears were shed as an appeal was made for lighter sentencing.

"It has been a very difficult journey for our family after this tragic accident. Especially having to endure what the media, public, and the prosecuting team believed or perceived Raymond to be. I am here to tell you that is far from the truth. Raymond is a person of good moral character and has the biggest heart," said one family member.

"He was passionate about serving his community. He often put his life in danger to keep citizens in the community safe. He has shown great respect for others, treating everyone with dignity and kindness. His mistake does not define who he truly is. I know he pleaded guilty to the charges brought against him, but I want everyone here to know who Raymond truly is, and that is someone who is far more than the offense he pled guilty to or how the public perceives him to be," the family member added.

Another family member said, "your honor, this was a tragic accident. Yes, it could have been avoided, but no one is perfect. It just shows and proves that we are all human beings. I truly believe that Raymond is a person of integrity who has made a mistake, and is deeply remorseful for the consequences it has caused him."

Many testified on Saralu's caring for children. "I have two grandchildren, and Ray loves them to death," said one woman. "He loves all the children that come to him. Kids are normally just drawn to him. And I've seen Ray, and I've seen how broken he has been because of this accident. Yes, it could have been prevented, but, like, everybody has been sharing all this entire time."

On his part, Saralu sincerely apologized to the victim and his parents. "I take full responsibility for that... I hope one day they can forgive me." He also extended his apologies to his family and his wife and thanked them for their love and support.

Before handing out the sentence Camacho explained, "An accident is not the same as being irresponsible. An accident is something you have no control over, being irresponsible is when you can do something about it, but you did not. You were irresponsible when you left your gun unsecured and young children found the firearm that resulted in this tragic situation."

He shared that he can see and has taken into consideration the character of Saralu and his contribution to the community, but he had to make a judgment based off what was just for not just the defendant but the victim. He said that through the sentencing the court imposed on Saralu, instead of just sitting in jail, Saralu may give restitution toward the victim's family, giving parts of his salary to cover medical bills which currently amounts to over $70,000.

In his order, Camacho added "One last thing, this is not an order but rather a request. I would respectfully ask the DPS commissioner to conduct an inspection to make sure that each DPS officer that has a government-issued firearm have a gun lock or gun safe."

Saralu was taken back to the Department of Corrections to start fulfilling his sentence

DPS

From page 1

new insights into the origin and timeframe of the remains, sharing that between July 8 and 9, 2024, a thorough canvass was conducted in the two caves where the skeletal remains were initially reported.

Manacop said detectives and crime scene technicians from the Criminal Investigation Bureau, alongside personnel from the Historic Preservation Office, spearheaded the follow-up investigation on the sets of human remains.

DPS said the remains examined by an archaeologist and osteologist from HPO were identified as being consistent with World War II-era remains. Following the examination, these remains were respectfully returned to their original locations within the caves, as per the recommendations of HPO.

However, the investigation took an intriguing turn with the discovery of an incomplete set of bones from one of the caves. Initial assessments suggest these bones are not from the World War II period, but are approximately 20 years old. Due to the incomplete nature of the remains, it has been challenging to ascertain whether they belong to one or more individuals. Additionally, characteristics such as age or gender remain undetermined, pending further laboratory examinations.

The CIB has announced plans to seek assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for advanced laboratory analysis to gain more clarity on the findings.

Manacop reiterated DPS' commitment to uncovering the full details behind the human remains uncovered in Marpi. "This investigation is ongoing and we are dedicated to determining the origin and history of the discovered remains."

DPS said that as more information becomes available, updates will be provided to the public.

FUNDS

From page 1

the hearing, the most recent settlement involving PSS that made headlines was the settlement between PSS and Dr. Bobby Cruz, co-director of PSS' Mental Health Program.

Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan) opened the discussion regarding the settlement and settlement payments during her line of questioning.

"There was a lawsuit that was adjudicated, how is that lawsuit being paid? One that was just settled for an undisclosed amount, how is that being paid? That made the newspaper," she asked.

Despite PSS' reluctance to answer, it was learned that local funds were used to pay the settlement.

"It would have to be local funds," said PSS' team.

In her follow up, Flores brought up that PSS does not have discretion to use local funds for settlements but her statement left PSS' administration speechless.

"But in none of the local funds does it say that [PSS] has discretion to use them for any lawsuits," she said.

Aside from the settlement with Cruz, *Saipan Tribune* learned that PSS is currently involved in two ongoing lawsuits; one regarding a fight that happened on school property, and an appeal of a procurement matter involving photo copy services.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, back in February, PSS and Dr. Bobby Cruz, agreed to settle the grievances that Cruz had filed where he alleged sexual harassment and rights violation.

Cruz's attorney, Charity Hodson, and the PSS administration sent out a joint statement reporting that a settlement has been reached between the parties.

"Dr. Cruz's grievance has been settled. We acknowledge the diligence and courage demonstrated by Dr. Cruz throughout the process and his decision to opt for an effective alternative to the grievance resolution," said the statement.

The parties, without going into detail, state that the resolution addresses both parties' concerns. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed

"This resolution was of paramount importance, as it manifested the collective intention of the Public School System and the aggrieved party, Dr. Bobby Cruz, an employee of PSS, to address the underlying issues pertaining to the PSS' grievance procedures concerning commissioners of Education. The PSS respects every right of its employees," said the statement.

PSS, in its statement, said it is committed to fostering an environment that protects the well-being of its students, staff, and personnel.

"As we move forward, PSS remains committed to fostering an environment that protects, promotes, and safeguards the well-being of students, staff, and personnel. We acknowledge the diligence and courage demonstrated by Dr. Cruz throughout the process and his decision to opt for an effective alternative to the grievance resolution. Together, we pledge to create an environment that reflects our dedication to putting 'Students First' while fostering a culture within the workplace aimed to uphold our values for high standards of professionalism and respect," said the statement.

The settlement came three weeks after Cruz's defense team sent out a written motion to the Board of Education and administrative hearing officer Catherine J. Cachero in his ongoing sexual harassment complaint against former Education commissioner Dr. Afred B. Ada.

The motion demanded Cachero's disqualification and for the BOE to issue a finding that he has exhausted all administrative relief. That would've essentially allowed Cruz to bring his complaint to court.

Cruz filed grievance against Ada back in November 2022 accusing the commissioner of sexual harassment and other unprofessional conduct, including a reduction in salary.

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

"Your Vote is Your Voice"

This is to inform General Public of the First Senatorial District – Precinct 7 (Rota) that the Commonwealth Election Commission will conduct a Special Election for the vacancy on the Board of Education.

In accordance of 1 CMC § 2263(b) a Special Election must be conducted within 30 days after the vacancy is declared.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

IMPORTANT DATES
2024 Special Election

DATES	DAYS	ACTIVITY
July 16, 2024	30 days	• First day for submission for nominating petition and Candidacy. • Request for absentee ballots commence.
July 22, 2024	23 days	• Voter Registration is closed for Election District 7 only. • Deadline for application for absentee voting by electronic/mail.
July 26, 2024	19 days	Last day of submission of nominating petitions and candidacy documents.
July 29, 2024	16 days	Last day of Commissions action on nominating petitions and candidacy documents.
July 30, 2024	15 days	Designation of polling places & distribution of listing.
August 7, 2024	7 days	• Early voting for Election District 7 only Specimen ballot to be posted in each polling place.
August 13, 2024	1 day	• Last day for early voting.
August 14, 2024	**0 days**	• **2024 SPECIAL ELECTION**
August 29, 2024	15 days	• Removal of all campaign materials from public places.
October 3, 2024	50 days	• Submission of Campaign Financial Statement.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Trump shooting a shocking and perilous moment for America

The attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump on Saturday during a campaign rally was a shocking moment for America, though thankfully he wasn't seriously wounded.

Since the nation's founding, both U.S. presidents and presidential candidates have been killed or injured in acts of political violence, but it has been more than 40 years since such an attack, when Ronald Reagan was shot outside a Washington hotel in 1981. Hours after Saturday's shooting, Trump wrote on his Truth Social site, "It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country."

Sadly, it is all too easy to believe something like this would happen. Mass shootings and acts of political violence have become horrifyingly frequent in the United States. No place is safe from bullets—not schools, churches, grocery stores nor Fourth of July parades—and no individual is. Members of Congress have been shot in a parking lot and at a ballfield. And not even one of the most protected people in the world, a former president with a Secret Service detail, is immune.

Candidates for office from school boards to Congress are regularly threatened with harm and death. Two years ago, the husband of Democrat Nancy Pelosi was seriously injured when a deranged person broke into their San Francisco home looking for the then-House Speaker. And on Jan. 6, 2021, armed assailants, some chanting "Hang Mike Pence," stormed the Capitol building intent on overturning the results of the presidential election

This should be a moment for unity—as both President Biden and Trump called for—to condemn violence and mourn the victims with one voice. Trump was grazed by a bullet and three other people at the rally were hit. One attendee died and two others were badly hurt and in stable condition Sunday.

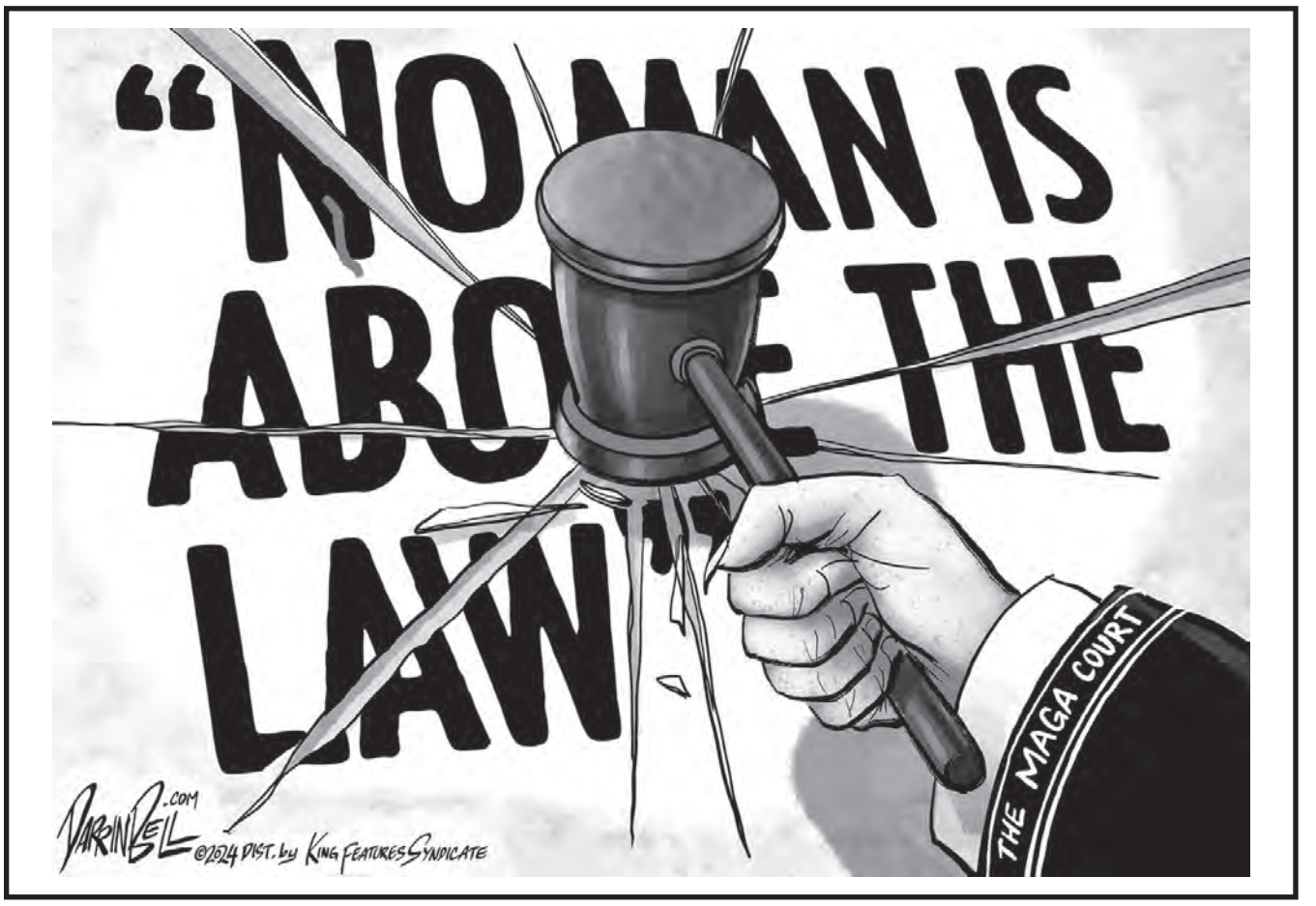
Instead the incident threatens to divide this deeply polarized nation further and spur more violence. In a nation with more guns than people, that should concern every American.

It doesn't have to be that way. The example set by political leaders in the next few days is crucial to how the rest of the campaign season plays out. This is neither a moment for victim-blaming nor demonization.

Biden and other Democratic leaders have rushed to condemn the violence, as is appropriate. And the president has wisely called for an independent review of security measures at the rally, with the findings reported to the public. But some on the right have used the incident to double down on irresponsible claims. A number of Republican elected officials have gone so far as to blame Biden and Democrats for the shooting. That is unfortunate.

We still don't know the motive of the shooter, identified as a 20-year-old man armed with an AR-15, the weapon of choice for mass shooters. The FBI says the shooter had bomb devices in his car. But what we do know is that, whether this was a politically motivated shooting or not, it was undoubtedly an act that has shaken America. Yes, this country is deeply divided

See TRUMP on Page 7



The American tragedy of the Trump assassination attempt

By DENNIS AFTERGUT AND AUSTIN SARAT
The Fulcrum

Dennis Aftergut, a former federal prosecutor, is of counsel to Lawyers Defending American Democracy. Austin Sarat is a professor of jurisprudence and political science at Amherst College.

Saturday's assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump was a crime against the entire country and against democracy itself. Every American should be grateful that it failed, and that Trump has survived it.

Let's say it plainly. It is an abomination that he was wounded as he campaigned for a return to the White House. Every one of us has an obligation to examine what we can do to stop any kind of recurrence.

We are grateful that, as The Washington Post notes, "Leaders of both political parties, including some with whom Mr. Trump has clashed, swiftly and unequivocally condemned the attack." They are setting the right example in an otherwise toxic political environment.

We have lived this national nightmare too many times. In the last 60 years, we've had the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, of Medgar Evers and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, of Robert Kennedy, and the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan.

In May of last year, another assassination attempt was foiled when a 19-year-old man drove a rented van into a White House barrier. He was a Nazi sympathizer who was prepared to "kill the president" and "seize power." Saturday's shooter, 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, apparently used an AR-15-style automatic rifle.

As we have before, all of us will live through the trauma of seeing the attempt on Trump's life replayed over and over on the news.

Political violence is never acceptable, and attempting to assassinate a candidate for public office, much less the presidency, is particularly abhorrent. Once killings of leaders, political candidates and presidents become embedded in a nation's history, neither figures on the left nor the right are immune.

We are grateful for the courage of Secret Service agents and first responders who acted quickly to protect Trump. But we need to stop putting them in harm's way in ways that have become too common.

However, rooting out political violence will not be easy.

In our society, as political polarization has increased, so has approval of violent means for partisan ends. An April 2024 PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist poll showed that one in five Americans believe that political violence may be justified.

At the time, experts said these figures put the nation in "an incredibly dangerous place" in the months before the 2024 presidential election." And here we are today, with another presidential candidate shot at.

Signs of the danger have plainly escalated. The Jan. 6, 2021, siege of the U.S. Capitol was the largest collective resort to violence to achieve political ends since the Civil War.

And the cynical attempt to excuse violence as an expression of "political discourse"—or an exercise of patriotism—reflects a breakdown in the shared belief that only peaceful means are acceptable to affect change. Once that social consensus erodes, you can never know where violence will next strike.

A study led by Garen Wintemute, a University of California at Davis physician, surveyed more than 8,600 Americans about their views on political violence. It found that one in three Americans believe that violence could usually or always be justified to achieve one political objective or another.

The survey also found that "support for political violence ... grew among those who said they were recent firearm purchasers and grew even more among those who admit they always carry a firearm outside their home." As Wintemute stated, "The data tell us there are, on any given day, thousands of armed people walking around in the United States who think that political violence is justified."

It is no more justified than the commonplace shootings in America of school children, music festival attendees and grocery shoppers. Indeed, there is no reason for the use of firearms by any citizen against another except in self-defense.

It defies common sense that guns are so readily available in America. Ours is the only country in the world with more firearms in circulation than citizens. We are on a pace to have over 500 mass shootings this year, well over one per day.

Ultimately, when a society relaxes or virtually eliminates

See TRAGEDY on Page 7

Milestones

By ISABELLA YIFTHEG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

This essay written by Isabella Yiftheg won her second place in the NMI Humanities Council's recent Marianas Writing Contest.

"Here you can try it on, just this once." Mom smiles; carefully she places the tedious necklace around my neck, across my shoulders. I feel the warm beads pressing against my skin.

Their vibrancy seemed to cast a spell, darkening the tone of my surroundings, as if it was the brightest thing in the room. The knotted string, resembling a fishing line, scratches lightly against the nape of my neck. Despite their delicate design, they're quite strong, yet I can't shake the feeling that the slightest misstep could release the beads from their border. "This is a lighatúttúr." She shared "It's a Refaluwasch necklace." I was maybe ten when I tried it on for the first time, I had seen it before but never got the answer to what it was. "I wish I had one." I thought.

Everyone in the Refaluwasch (Carolinian) community has a lighatúttúr, or at least they should. It's a cascade of beads, strung together to form a tapestry of pride and love. This necklace is delicately placed around your neck, draping its intricate vibrant trinkets along the shoulders and across your chest. They're worn at important events in your or someone else's life, like a birthday, a graduation, a wedding, and other memorable moments. It's not typically something you buy for yourself; it's something you give or you're given. To grant it to a Refalwausch is to show love or respect, to grant it to a non-Carolinian represents acceptance into our community. Even still as a teenager, I have never received one, or at least never remember receiving one. I was raised and born in the United States; there I found myself surrounded by faraway glimpses of my culture. Despite my closeness to the lighatúttúr, they remained distant, a tradition just out of reach, teasing me with their beauty and dignity. Regardless, seeing family and friends be granted with this necklace, is something that stayed with me my entire life.

Aunty Ann, Mom's youngest sister, had a lighatúttúr when she was getting married. I was so excited to see her and her soon-to-be husband; it had been maybe three years since we've seen each other. The fragrance of freshly cut flowers followed the breeze, weaving through the clashing of laughter and music. The white of the building and the bouquets were almost blinding, but not as much as the bride's radiant smile. I was nine; at the time, I was old enough to remember things but still young enough to experience something new. While they said their "I do's" there it was—the necklace draped along her and her now husband's chest, linking their hearts together. That was the first time I remember seeing one.

Ernesta, my sister, is the first to ever be given one out of my siblings and I. I still can recall when my aunty called me asking for my sister's graduation colors. "Red, teal and white" I told her. Then the day before Ernesta's graduation, there was Aunty Nei, pulling out a sparkling lighatúttúr, folded in a ziplock baggie, from her clearly overstuffed luggage. Its intense redness looks ablaze; I'm almost convinced that touching it would leave burns on my fingertips, yet the additional white beads among the fiery tone tames the overpowering hue. And then there are the tiny teal beads, resembling a turquoise stone, adding a touch of elegance to the artifact. I was so jealous that day that she had gotten one before me. The next day, I watched my sister get her high school diploma in that same necklace. I was so impressed with Aunty Nei's skill, I begged her to let me learn too. Aunty Nei is the one who makes almost all the lighatúttúr for our family, it's basically her job. "When making these, you have to have a certain setup." she stated, "it's seen as bad luck if it's not like this." Placed on the table was a thin scarf with a hibiscus pattern and tassels on each opposing side. I let out a chuckle at the pugua stain on the upper right-side corner of the smooth fabric.

"There's always a stain" I thought. On top of it was the needle, beads and string organized according to the steps of making a lighatúttúr. It's important to learn how to make one so you're prepared to make more for the next generation. That's how the tradition is passed on. "Who are we making this for?" I asked, "Your god sister, her baptism is this weekend." She replied, not taking her eyes away from the beads in her callused hands. Seeing it done had evoked a question.

Had I gotten one from my baptism?

"Of course you had one at your baptism. What kind of question is that?" Mom rolled her eyes, not giving it a second thought, "it's in the hope chest; go check." I hurried down the creaking stairs as my feet smacked against the wooden boards. The hope chest was beneath the stairs, begging me to rummage through it. I kneeled down and placed my hand on the chipped sides. I struggled to lift the massive lid; the scent of aged wood smelled ancient as if I had opened an old book that had gone untouched for years. Stuffed within were newspapers, old concert tickets and dozens of the lighatúttúr, each carefully enclosed in its own ziplock bag. My fingers brushed against the smooth surface of one of the plastic bags tucked away in the corner. I pulled it out and examined its contents; there laid a lighatúttúr. My lighatúttúr. The ziplock bag bore the name "Bella" written in bold, permanent marker, and with the necklace were photos of the baptism. I reflected on photos I found of me in the church as I griped onto my lighatúttúr.

Looking into my life as it just began. Reflecting on what, as a child, could my heart and mind process. Being cradled in the gentle embrace of water, feeling a sense of belonging wash over my infant body. The lights blinding my eyes, while an elderly man does the sign of the cross. A cool liquid trickled through my hair, running down my neck, sending an instant shiver down my spine. Above me, a warm glow of candles dancing, casting flickering shadows that somehow whisper praise and devotion. Amidst the soft murmur of prayers and songs, an unfamiliar sensation grazes against the nape of my neck and is heavy on my chest. A Refalwaulsch beaded necklace—a lighatúttúr. This was the first time I had ever received one. The first milestone as a Refaluwasch.

TRAGEDY

From page 6

the controls on individuals' ownership of firearms, gun safety and weapons of war, the result is to loosen the social norms on gun violence in everyday life. Frequent mass shootings normalize it and inevitably undermine the civil norms disapproving of violence.

Count on hearing from the NRA and its companion organizations that Saturday's assassination attempt was by a crazed individual or a criminal. We may even hear from gun advocacy organizations that if citizens in or near the shooting site had been armed, they might have stopped the shooting before Trump was wounded.

We can't let such talking points obscure the brutal truth. Speaking to the statistical connection between guns carried in public and the readiness to engage in political violence, Wintemute put it bluntly: "Denial is not our friend here."

Time will tell whether the attempt on Trump's life will spur a turn in the direction of common sense gun safety. In the meantime, each of us should speak out against what happened last night in Pennsylvania.

We should also speak out about, and not deny, the role in yet another American tragedy of a Supreme Court majority intent on approving bump stock machine guns, concealed firearms on the streets and virtually unlimited rights to gun ownership.

Words and ballots, not bullets, are the way to secure a just and peaceful America, as well as to preserve our freedom and our constitutional republic against political threats to them.

TRUMP

From page 7

over our shared future. But political violence is anathema to a democracy, where governance is decided at the ballot box.

Trump and Republican leaders meeting at the GOP National Convention in Milwaukee this week have a particular responsibility to not use the shooting as a tool to rile up their base. They must recognize that the U.S. is a powder keg right now, and tamp down the heated rhetoric before it can spark. By now, they must realize that violence, once unleashed, is nonpartisan.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOP fascist overreach

Just when circumstances were beginning to appear dire for American democracy, the unceasingly self-destructive Republican Party has met its exceedingly low expectations by committing collective political suicide yet again for the whole world to watch on live TV.

Like clockwork, you can always count on the GOP (Greedy Old Perverts) to give up any lead they may have had in public opinion polls by pissing off most Americans with their hillbilly hoedown at their ridiculously racist right-wing neo-Nazi Rapepublican Convention of convicts. Fascism + felonies = today's GOP.

If you thought the 2020 Republican National Convention was a fascist freak show, then you no doubt were laughing yourself silly at this year's stupid spectacle of one delusional dimwitted Donald Trump acolyte after another lauding lavish praise upon their foolish fuhrer.

Thank God for the fact Republican voters are addicted to losing. Why do you think Rapepublicans support a sure loser like convicted felon Trump the traitor? Because they love Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un as much as Donald does? Or because deep down most low-IQ Republikkkan White supremacists in far-right flyover land know how inferior and pathetic their so-called lives actually are as they waste away mentally, physically, and spiritually sitting robotically in their wooden pews in their hate-filled Holy Roller inbred charlatan houses of worship yelling and screaming incomprehensible gibberish to one another while they toss poisonous snakes back and forth in their backwoods shack called a church.

Jake Pickering
Arcata, CA, USA

In support of Carla A. Sablan

I am writing to express my strong support for Carla A. Sablan as the next principal of Chacha Ocean View Middle School. Mrs. Sablan is a true leader who has effectively brought together a divided group and transformed it into a cohesive team. Since her arrival as our interim principal, then later vice-principal, her dedication and commitment to our school community has been evident in everything she does.

Mrs. Sablan's visibility in classrooms and hallways fosters a strong sense of community. She engages with both students and staff, ensuring that everyone feels seen and heard. Her transparent communication style keeps our team informed about important information, promoting trust and collaboration throughout our school.

Her open-door policy encourages faculty and staff to approach her with any concerns or ideas, creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. The positive changes we have seen since her leadership are profound; students have noticed a significant transformation in the school atmosphere, and they feel comfortable speaking with her about their needs and aspirations.

Under Mrs. Sablan's guidance, faculty, staff, and student morale has significantly increased. She inspires us all to strive for excellence and fosters a supportive environment where collaboration thrives. Additionally, her commitment to improving the face of our school through various improvement projects has made a lasting impact on our community.

I urge the PSS Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education to seriously consider my plea to PERMANENTLY appoint Mrs. Carla A. Sablan as principal for Chacha Ocean View Middle School. Our faculty, staff, and students firmly believe that she has initiated tremendous positive changes for the betterment of our school.

Furthermore, I ask the Board of Education and the Commissioner to reevaluate any decisions regarding the shuffling of administrators from their current positions, especially when there is evident success in both academics and morale. Stability in leadership is crucial for sustaining our growth and progress.

Thank you for considering my strong endorsement of Mrs. Carla A. Sablan. I am confident that her leadership will continue to bring about positive change and excellence at Chacha Ocean View Middle School.

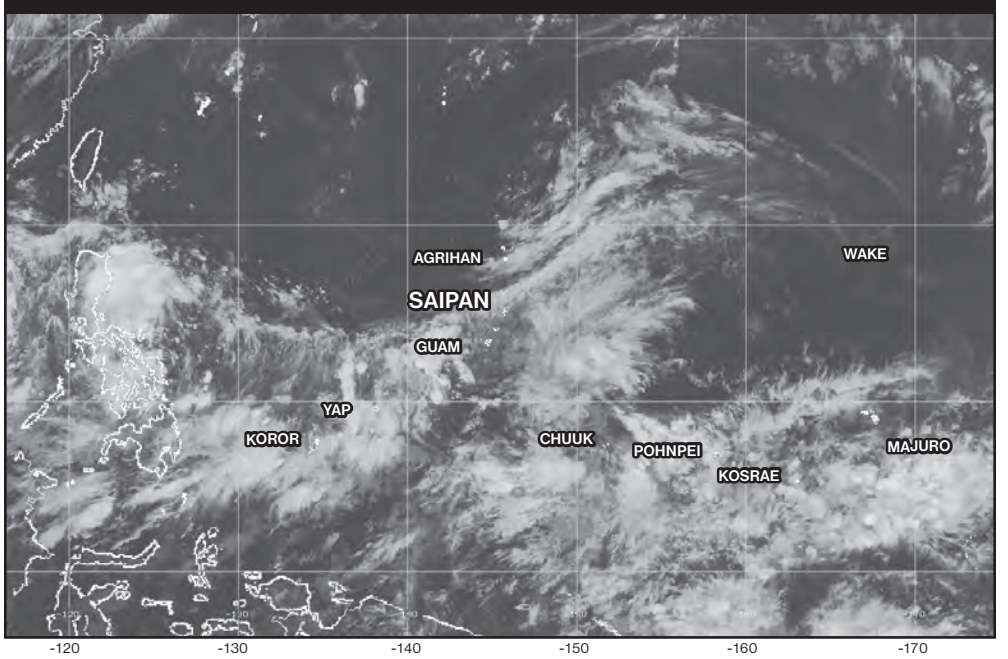
Peter JC Mesngon
Classroom teacher
Chacha Ocean View Middle School

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy.	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	Cloudy
85° 79°	86° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:39 AM WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change was needed to update today`s forecast. Showers are expected to remain in the area through the week. Winds are expected to be fresh through the week before diminishing to moderate for the weekend. Seas may become choppy as a westerly swell is anticipated to move in later this week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	90° / 81°
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Rain	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 78°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:24 AM	3:57 PM
Friday	-	3:17 AM	4:57 PM
Saturday	-	4:16 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	-	5:19 AM	6:54 PM
Monday	-	6:23 AM	7:46 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	60° / 49°
Beijing	Fair	92° / 71°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	94° / 76°
Osaka	Cloudy	91° / 76°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Busan	Sunny	77° / 66°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	82° / 54°
Seoul	Cloudy	86° / 74°
Tokyo	Cloudy	85° / 72°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	101° / 80°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:36 AM	High Tide	1.90
11:25 AM	Low Tide	0.05
7:07 PM	High Tide	1.86
11:41 PM	Low Tide	1.53

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Temporary road closure for Lower Miha Village in Garapan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to notify the general public of the ongoing sewer line replacement construction along Adetfa Street in Lower Miha Village, Garapan. The roads will now remain closed until Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

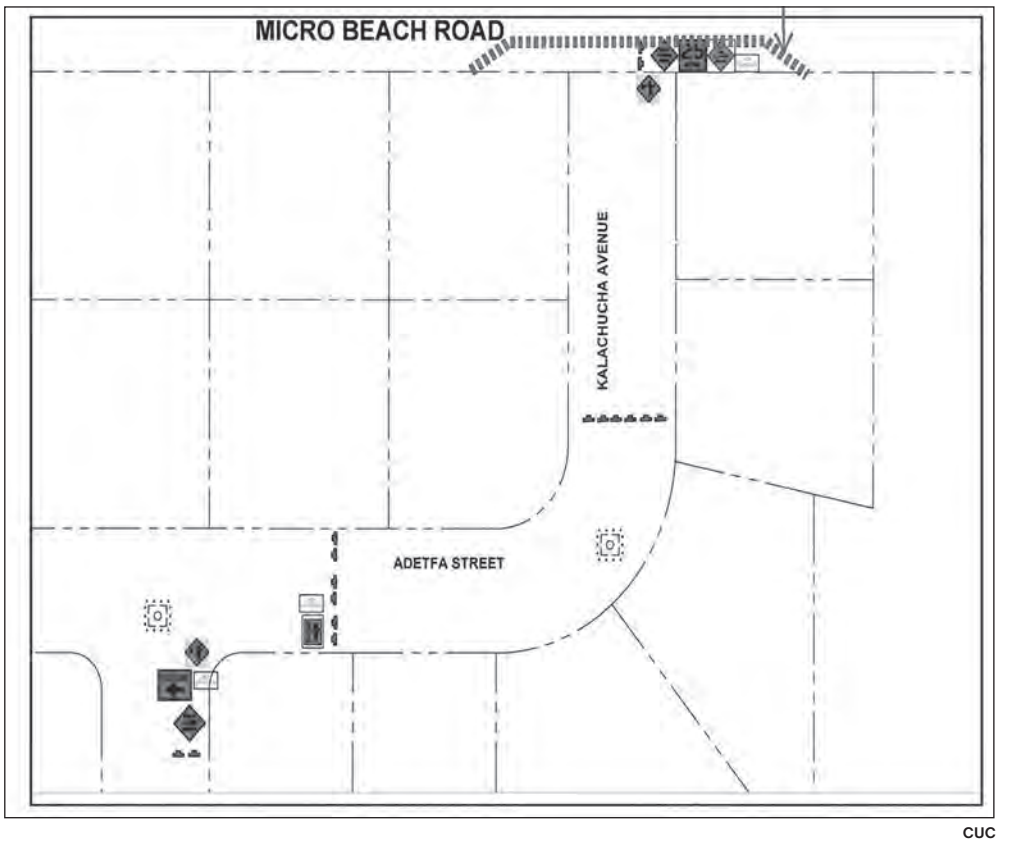
It will be necessary for CUC's contractor, Hong Ye Construction, to temporarily close Adetfa Street and Kalachucha Avenue to replace the existing ACP sewer line and establish a new route for its replacement. Additionally, this project will involve reconnecting residences affected by the construction. The temporary road closure began Wednesday, July 3, 2024, and has been extended to Wednesday, July 31, 2024, from 6am to 7pm. There may be adjustments to the closure time based on the tide level and existing hard rock conditions of the trench, affecting the groundwater level, and interfering with the construction work. Residents in the area will be provided with detailed directions by CUC's contractor regarding how to access their property. Detour signs will be displayed to inform the traveling public of the restrictions.

Customers in the area will not experience any disruption to their power, water, or wastewater services as a result of the work.

About the project

The Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a more reliable sewer system to the CNMI. The transition work is part of the decommissioning of the old sewer line and will be replaced with PVC pipes.

CUC encourages the public to avoid these areas during construction and appreciates your cooperation in accommodating the traffic restrictions necessary to complete this critical infrastructure improvement project for our customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***



CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s ongoing sewer line replacement construction along Adetfa Street in Lower Miha Village, Garapan.

NYMWPS advocates for inclusion of West Philippine Sea history in K-12 curriculum

The National Youth Movement for West Philippine Sea has formally addressed a letter dated July 8, 2024 to President Ferdinand "Bong Bong" Marcos, Jr. and Secretary Sonny Angara of the Department of Education, calling for the inclusion of the history and significance of the West Philippine Sea in the K-12 curriculum.

Maverick Paul Bersalona, NYMWPS national chair and director for Internal Affairs and director for Membership (YOUTH Sector), said, "This initiative aims to educate young Filipinos about the vital importance of this region to our nation's heritage and future."

The NYMWPS, a peaceful and transglobal organization dedicated to the preservation of Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasizes the critical need for educating young Filipinos about the West Philippine Sea and to instill patriotism among the youth and to rekindle their national spirit.

"The West Philippine Sea is not merely a geographical location but a region with profound historical, cultural, economic, and geopolitical significance. By integrating its history and relevance into the K-12 curriculum, NYMWPS believes that students will gain a comprehensive understanding of their nation's maritime heritage," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, NYMWPS founder and global chairperson.

The key objectives of the Initiative are:

1. Raising Awareness: Highlighting the impacts of aggressive activities by other nations.

2. Fostering Patriotism: Cultivating love for the country among students.

3. Respecting Sovereignty: Instilling respect for Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity.

4. Promoting Conservation: Encouraging the preservation, conservation, and sustainability of the Philippine ecosystem.

5. Encouraging Unity: Promoting love and respect for the Filipino people

In the letter, the NYMWPS outlined several key reasons for Inclusion of WPS history and issues in the K-12 Curriculum:

1. Historical significance:

Educating students on the historical claims, events, and treaties that have defined our maritime boundaries.

2. Geopolitical importance:

Understanding the strategic significance of the West Philippine Sea and the intricate relationships between the Philippines and neighboring countries.

3. Economic value: Highlighting the economic stakes, including rich fishing grounds, potential oil and gas reserves, and crucial maritime trade routes.

4. Environmental education: Promoting awareness of the unique marine biodiversity, conservation efforts, and the impact of human activities on marine life.

5. Cultural connection: Fostering respect and unity by teaching about the sea's cultural importance to coastal communities.

The NYMWPS also underscores the regional, continental, and global importance of the West Philippine Sea. Its strategic location impacts regional security, international trade, and global maritime dynamics.

"Integrating the West Philippine Sea into the K-12 curriculum will provide students with a well-rounded education, preparing them for future challenges and fostering a deep appreciation for their heritage," said Jojo Sebastian, co-chair of NYMWPS Australia Chapter and a member of the NYMWPS Education Subcommittee on Education (WPS Inclusion in K-12 curriculum).

"The organization also calls on law schools to enhance their teachings on territorial rights, thereby producing future lawyers who are well-versed in the legal aspects of the Philippines' maritime claims and can actively contribute to preserving our sovereignty," added Dr. Carolyn R. Valenton, a dean of a private college in Metro Manila and the chairperson of the NYMWPS Education and Research Committee.

The letter also underscores the regional, continental, and global relevance of the West Philippine Sea, emphasizing its crucial role in regional security, international trade, and global maritime dynamics.

The National Youth Movement for West Philippine Sea envisions a free, peaceful, stable, and secure West Philippine Sea and territories for better lives of Filipino people and a better Philippines. Our mission is the preservation of Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity.

For more information about the NYMWPS, please email info@nymwps.net or visit its official Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/NYMWPS. ***(PR)***

Legislature passes bill authorizing GWA customer assistance program

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Sen. Sabina Flores Perez issued the following statement on Wednesday following the passage of Bill 273-37.

Perez

"*Si Yu'os ma'åse* to my colleagues and the community for their support of the passage of Bill 273-37. With this measure, we strengthen our commitment to bettering our people's lives while protecting our precious resources. This bill is a crucial step towards ensuring that all residents of Guam have access to affordable, clean drinking water. By providing financial assistance and addressing water conservation, we are not only supporting our community's most vulnerable members but also protecting our precious resources."

Bill 273-37 authorizes GWA to create a customer assistance program to provide financial assistance to low-income and eligible households, promote water conservation, facilitate leak detection and timely repairs on private property, and significantly reduce water loss and associated costs to ratepayers, to ensure that all residents have access to clean drinking water.

According to the Water Environmental Research Institute, 2023 was one of the wettest years on record due to rainfall. Trends, however, indicate that Guam could be in line for a significant dry spell, if not drought conditions, in the future. Therefore, it is even more critical to repair or replace leaking water pipes to conserve our precious water resources from depletion and to prevent further instability and economic hardships amongst our people.

Bill 273-37 now successfully makes its way to Adelup for further action. ***(PR)***

Radewagen supports Food for Peace resolution on effort's 70th anniversary

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) cosponsored a bipartisan resolution last July 10, the 70th anniversary of the program, that supports renewal of the Food for Peace program in the upcoming Farm Bill.

Radewagen

"Food for Peace was signed into law by President Eisenhower, who first appointed Samoan leadership for American Samoa," said Radewagen. "For 70 years, the United States through Food for Peace has worked to prevent child hunger and chronic malnourishment, which is a problem in many places in the world. This effort should be renewed along with the important Farm Bill."

The resolution is led by Reps. Jim Costa (D-Calif.) and Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.), with 34 members of Congress including Amata cosponsoring it at introduction.

Established in 1954, Food for Peace sends U.S.-produced food to countries in times of famine, drought, or other hunger struggles. Food for Peace has the support of Save the Children, World Vision, World Food Program USA, Alliance to End Hunger, InterAction, MercyCorps, Oxfam America, and Bread for the World.

The Farm Bill authorizes U.S. agricultural policy, including local nutrition programs and USDA grants, historically for five years at a time, and currently is due for renewal by Sept. 30, 2024. ***(PR)***

Business

Rota SBDC's Christmas in July event happening this weekend

The Rota Small Business Development Center is excited to remind the community about the upcoming "Christmas in July" celebration happening this weekend at the Sinapalo Children's Center, Rota.

Join the Rota Small Business Development Center this coming Friday, July 19, 2024, from 6pm to 9pm for an evening filled with holiday cheer, entertainment, and community fun.

Event highlights:

■ Entertainment: Enjoy a lineup of festive performances that will keep the holiday spirit alive throughout the evening.

■ Raffle prize drawing: Participate in our exciting raffle prize drawing by picking up a passport program and visiting vendor booths to qualify.

■ Vendor decorating contest: Witness the creativity of our vendors as they compete for the best holiday-themed table/booth.

■ Food, drinks, and holiday shopping: Indulge in delicious food and beverages and explore unique gifts and novelty items from vendors.

Vendors:

The Rota Small Business Development Center is pleased to announce the vendors who will be present at the event:

■ Food and beverages: PJM Enterprise, Hagu La'mun, Teteto Cool Spot, BBQ Beast, and El Bishu.

■ Novelty items, gifts, apparel, and toys: Angel's Enterprises, Cessa's, Chiku Chiku, and Mind2Muscle.

■ Interested vendors should register https://forms.gle/e6DMRp49F9jq3Ffh6.

Christmas in July brings the holiday spirit to midsummer, fostering community togetherness while providing small businesses with an early opportunity to engage with customers and boost sales.

Special thanks to donors and partners:

This event would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and partners:

■ NAAI-Anita Meyers

■ Sweet7Oh

■ NMC-CREES

■ Rota Chamber of Commerce

■ Office of the Mayor of Rota

■ Rota Municipal Council

■ Individuals: Peter & Kayla Mendiola and Diana Benavente Hocog

"We're thrilled to bring this festive event to Rota and look forward to celebrating with the community," said Charlene M. Ogo, director and business advisor of Rota SBDC. "Christmas in July is not just a celebration, but a significant initiative to support our local entrepreneurs and bring everyone together."

For more information, visit us online at www.cnmisbdc.com. You may also contact Rota SBDC director/business advisor Charlene M. Ogo at (670) 532-9513 or via email at charlene.ogo@marianas.edu. The CNMI SBDC can also be reached at cnmisbdc@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6888. For the latest updates on training and events, follow us on social media @cnmisbdc on Instagram or CNMI Small Business Development Center Network on FaceBook. ***(PR)***

†Mohammed
Delowar Hossain
Jan. 1, 1969 - July 4, 2024

Wife: Cenina A. Hossain

Children & Grand Children:
Mohammed Ali Hossain
Mohammed Omar Hossain / Albertha Hossain
Joseph Isaac K. Hossain
Jenavieve Ivy-Ann K. Hossain
Mohammed Abdullah Hossain / Brianna Castro
Jaiden Zade P. Hossain
Mohammed Israfil Hossain

Your thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

The Family

Nation

THREE DAYS AFTER ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

Trump shooter remains elusive enigma

BETHEL PARK, Pa. (AP)—After three days, an enigmatic portrait emerged of the 20-year-old man who came close to killing former President Donald Trump with a high-velocity bullet: He was an intelligent loner with few friends, an apparently thin social media footprint and no hints of strong political beliefs that would suggest a motive for an attempted assassination.

AP

This 2021 photo provided by Bethel Park School District shows student Thomas Matthew Crooks who graduated from Bethel Park High School with the Class of 2022, in Bethel Park, Pa.

Even after the FBI cracked into Thomas Matthew Crooks' cellphone, scoured his computer, home and car, and interviewed more than 100 people, the mystery of why he opened fire on Trump's rally Saturday, a bullet grazing the GOP nominee's ear, remained as elusive as the moment it happened.

"He sat by himself, didn't talk to anyone, didn't even try to make conversation," said 17-year-old Liam Campbell, echoing the comments of classmates who remembered the shooter in this quiet community outside of Pittsburgh. "He was an odd kid," but nothing about him seemed dangerous, he added. "Just a normal person who seemed like he didn't like talking to people."

So far, there has been no public disclosure the shooter left any writings, suicide note, social media screed or any other indicator explaining his reasons for targeting Trump. A law enforcement official briefed on the ongoing investigation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that Crooks' phone had not immediately yielded any meaningful clues related to motive, or whether he acted alone or with others.

Crooks' political leanings were also hazy. Crooks was registered as a Republican in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave $15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day Democratic President Joe Biden was sworn into office.

The absence of a satisfactory explanation has led Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to recount the lengthy federal investigation into the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas, the deadliest such attack in the nation's history. That probe closed after 17 months without finding any motive for what drove the 64-year-old gunman to spray more than 1,000 rounds into a crowd of concertgoers other than to "attain a certain degree of infamy."

Biden says cooling political rhetoric doesn't mean he'll 'stop telling truth' about Trump

LAS VEGAS (AP)—President Joe Biden returned to the campaign trail on Tuesday for the first time since the attempted assassination of Donald Trump, continuing his calls to calm the divisive rhetoric on both sides but also arguing that doing so "doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth" about his Republican rival.

Addressing the NAACP convention in Las Vegas, Biden said curbing political violence in the country should mean combating all kinds of bloodshed—including reducing police brutality and banning weapons like the AR-style rifle used in the weekend attack on the former president.

"Our politics have become too heated," Biden said.

That didn't stop him from tearing into Trump, though, listing why the former president's administration was "hell" for Black Americans, including his mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic, skyrocketing unemployment amid early lockdowns and attempts to, as Biden put it, erase Black history.

"Just because we must lower the temperature in our politics as it relates to violence doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth," Biden told the crowd that often broke into chants of "Four more years!"

The president is aiming to showcase his administration's support for Black voters who are a tentpole of the Democratic coalition and of his personal political support. As part of his swing in Nevada, he did an interview with BET and was set to address on Wednesday the Hispanic advocacy group UnidosUS, another crucial Democratic-leaning bloc.

Asked during the BET interview about waning enthusiasm for his reelection among Black Americans, Biden said such voters should turn out for him "because they know where my heart is. They know where my head is."

He added that many Americans, especially young voters, weren't watching the election closely until recently and "we're just getting down to gametime now."

Life & Style

Jack Black ends Tenacious D tour after bandmate's Trump shooting comment

The comedy rock duo Tenacious D—made up of Jack Black and Kyle Gass—has canceled the rest of their tour after Gass' remarks about the assassination attempt on Donald Trump.

While onstage at a concert in Sydney on Sunday, Gass was presented with a birthday cake and asked to "make a wish" by Black. Gass responded, "Don't miss Trump next time," an apparent reference to the rally shooting a day before that left the former president with an injured ear. The video of Gass was widely circulated on social media.

AP

Kyle Gass, left, and Jack Black of Tenacious D perform at the Louder Than Life Music Festival in Louisville, Ky., on Sept. 22, 2022.

"I was blindsided by what was said at the show on Sunday. I would never condone hate speech or encourage political violence in any form," Black said in a Tuesday statement on Instagram. "After much reflection, I no longer feel it is appropriate to continue the Tenacious D tour, and all future creative plans are on hold. I am grateful to the fans for their support and understanding."

Following Black's statement, Gass apologized on Instagram.

"The line I improvised Sunday night in Sydney was highly inappropriate, dangerous and a terrible mistake," he wrote Tuesday. "I don't condone violence in any kind, in any form, against anyone. What happened was a tragedy, and I'm incredibly sorry for my severe lack of judgement."

The band recently completed dates in the U.S. and Europe. Their "Spicy Meatball Tour" was slated to continue Tuesday night in Newcastle, hitting most major cities in Australia and New Zealand this month before returning to the U.S. for a select few dates in October.

"Frontier Touring regret to advise that Tenacious D's concert tonight at Newcastle Entertainment Centre has been postponed," their touring company announced in a statement on Instagram Tuesday. "Ticket holders are asked to hold onto their tickets until further information is available."

When asked for further comment, a represented for the band directed the Associated Press back to Black's statement. Details on refunds for the remaining tour dates were not immediately available. ***(AP)***

Andress says she was drunk during panned MLB anthem performance, will get treatment

After a widely panned performance of the U.S. national anthem at the MLB Home Run Derby, country singer Ingrid Andress apologized Tuesday and said she was drunk.

"I'm checking myself into a facility today to get the help I need," she wrote in an Instagram post. "That was not me last night. I apologize to MLB, all the fans, and this country I love so much for that rendition."

The MLB is not commenting, spokesperson Matt Bourne said.

A representative for Andress said there will be no additional comment at this time.

On Monday night, the four-time Grammy nominee belted an a cappella version of "The Star-Spangled Banner," an incredibly challenging song to sing. Clips of her less-than-popular rendition at the Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, went viral.

Sports Illustrated writer Alex Carr posted on X, formerly Twitter, "I'm so sorry, I'm sure Ingrid Andress is a wonderful person, but that was one of the worst national anthems I think I've ever heard in my whole life."

Here's more to know about the incident and Andress.

Andress, 32, began her career as a Nashville songwriter, penning songs for performers across genres, including Bebe Rexha's "Girl in the Mirror," Halestorm's "Conflicted," and the critically acclaimed "Boys," which became an international hit for British singer Charli XCX.

Soon, she inked a deal with Warner Music Nashville and Atlantic Records for her own music, releasing her debut album "Lady Like" in 2020. Her breakthrough single "More Hearts Than Mine" proceeded the release, peaked at No. 30 on the Billboard Hot 100 and remained on the list for 20 weeks.

In 2021, she released her second-biggest song to date, the country radio favorite "Wishful Drinking," a collaboration with singer Sam Hunt. It also spent 20 weeks on the chart, peaking at No. 47.

Her sophomore album, "Good Person," was released in 2022.

Andress' performance quickly made the rounds on social media.

Vulture blogger Bethy Squires joked that Andress sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," "in cursive," a reference to a popular Internet neologism referring to pop singers stretching vowels and accentuating their vocal fry.

Chris Wright, the executive editor of Saturday Down South, was a bit more delicate: "I enjoy Ingrid Andress' music and have seen her in concert," he wrote on X. "After listening to that National Anthem, I have a newfound respect for her producers and sound crew. Wow." ***(AP)***

AP

Ingrid Andress sings the national anthem before the MLB Home Run Derby at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas Monday, July 15, 2024.

Sue Bird Barbie: Mattel honors WNBA great with signature doll

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—WNBA great Sue Bird has been honored with a signature Barbie doll.

Mattel announced Tuesday the collectible tribute doll was modeled for Bird, who is a "basketball legend who pioneered the way for growth in the women's league with her record-breaking legacy and courageous voice that forever changed the game."

The doll is dressed in a No. 10 jersey, Bird's number in the WNBA.

The doll is part of Mattel's Role Model series as the company celebrates' Barbie's 65th anniversary and the company's summer of sports initiative.

UConn, where Bird won two national championships in college, posted a photo of her smiling while holding her Barbie.

Bird, 43, retired in 2022 after 21 seasons in the WNBA, all with the Seattle Storm. She helped the storm to four championships and was part of five U.S. national teams that won a gold medal, the last coming in 2021 at the Tokyo Olympics. She's now a part owner of the Storm.

Husband's unexplained disinterest may signal end of marriage

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 15 years and share a 14-year-old son. We no longer have a physical relationship. I'm trying to decide if it's worth getting a divorce. Our marital relations were what I would consider normal, at least once a week, before and during my pregnancy. However, once my son was born, it became less and less frequent. We have gone as long as two years without being intimate. This is because of my husband's lack of interest.

We have been to counseling and had countless conversations, with me begging him to explain what the problem could be. He has spoken to his doctor and ruled out a medical issue. He refuses to admit he's no longer attracted to me but claims he's simply "not interested." Is it fair to me that I have spent 14 years without the physical intimacy I long for? Must I give up the idea of ever having it? Is this enough to leave him over?

LONGING IN MICHIGAN

DEAR LONGING: Is being married to someone who refuses physical intimacy fair? No. From what you have written, I'm not sure your husband has been completely honest about his problem. This may be from embarrassment. The problem may be psychological -- that he's not attracted to any woman who has given birth. (He wouldn't be the first.) It could also be that his hormones need supplementing—something that should be discussed with an endocrinologist. If he's having erectile difficulties, the specialist to consult would be a urologist. Of course, none of these doctors can help if a man doesn't WANT to be helped, has a girlfriend on the side or is not completely straight. If that's the case, the person you should consult is a lawyer. Hopefully, the divorce will be amicable.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman over 50, and my job has become more demanding as I have worked my way up the corporate ladder. The problem is, I can no longer put in the long hours and extra days. I'm a salaried employee, and I'm not compensated for all the overtime. I take my job seriously. I love what I do and don't want to quit. On top of this, my husband of 35 years puts pressure on me when I get home. He's retired and waits around for me to do things for him. He will cook, but he won't wash dishes, do laundry, sweep floors, etc. I'm at the end of my rope. I don't know where to turn.

CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE

DEAR CAN'T: There is nothing I can do to help you regarding the money you are earning (or not) at your job. That's why it may be time to remind your retired husband that you are over 50 now and can no longer work full-time at a demanding job AND do all the housework. Then suggest that because he has so much time on his hands, he find a part-time job so you both can hire someone to do the housework he finds so unappealing. At this point, you're entitled to more help than he has been giving.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

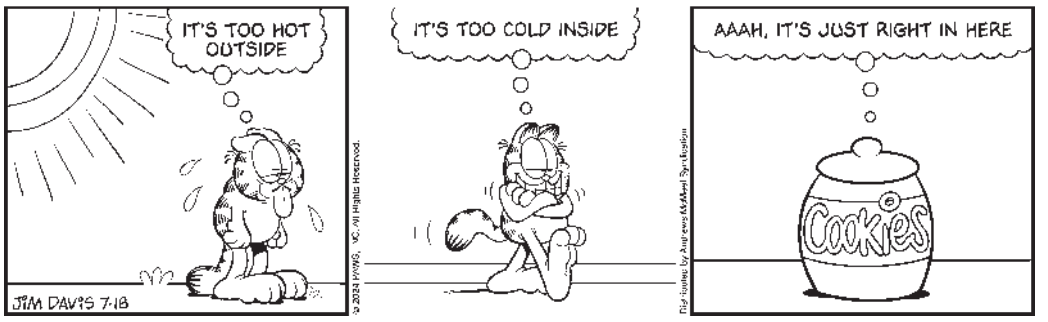
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES, LOOK! WE GOT OUR PICTURES BACK FROM OUR JURASSIC TRIP!
OH BOY! LET'S SEE!
WOW, THESE CAME OUT GOOD! LOOK AT THAT APATOSAUR!
THERE'S ME! THERE'S ME!
YES! YES! WE'RE RICH! HA HA! NOW WE CAN GET OUR OWN APARTMENT!
THIS DINOSAUR BLINKED.
I'LL BUY A CAR TOO, BUT SINCE I CAN'T DRIVE FOR ANOTHER DECADE, WE'LL HAVE TO GET A CHAUFFEUR.
IF WE PAY HIM, HE HAS TO LET US SIT UP FRONT AND BEEP THE HORN. RIGHT?

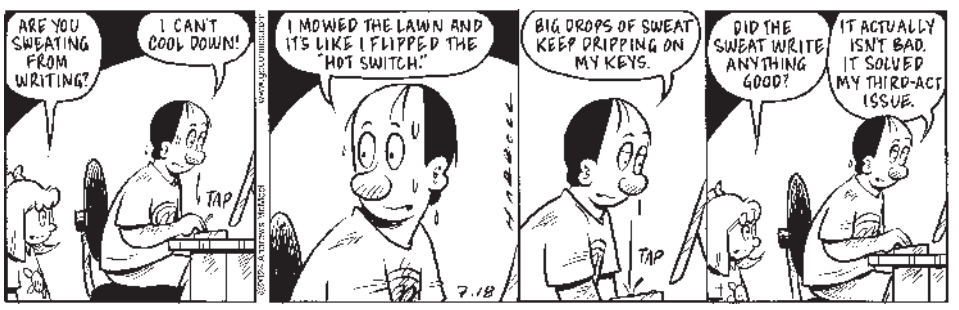
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



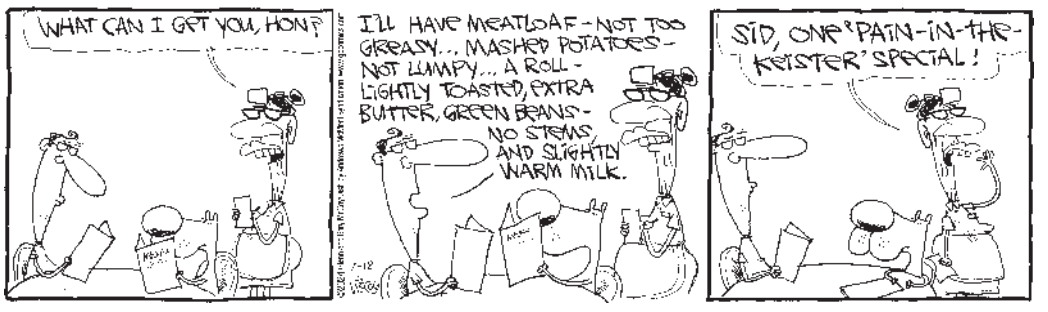
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ARE YOU SWEATING FROM WRITING?
I CAN'T COOL DOWN!
TAP
I MOWED THE LAWN AND IT'S LIKE I FLIPPED THE "HOT SWITCH."
BIG DROPS OF SWEAT KEEP DRIPPING ON MY KEYS.
TAP
DID THE SWEAT WRITE ANYTHING GOOD?
IT ACTUALLY ISN'T BAD. IT SOLVED MY THIRD-ACT ISSUE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT CAN I GET YOU, HON?
I'LL HAVE MEATLOAF - NOT TOO GREASY... MASHED POTATOES - NOT LUMPY... A ROLL - LIGHTLY TOASTED, EXTRA BUTTER, GREEN BEANS - NO STEMS AND SLIGHTLY WARM MILK.
SID, ONE 'PAIN-IN-THE-KEISTER' SPECIAL!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

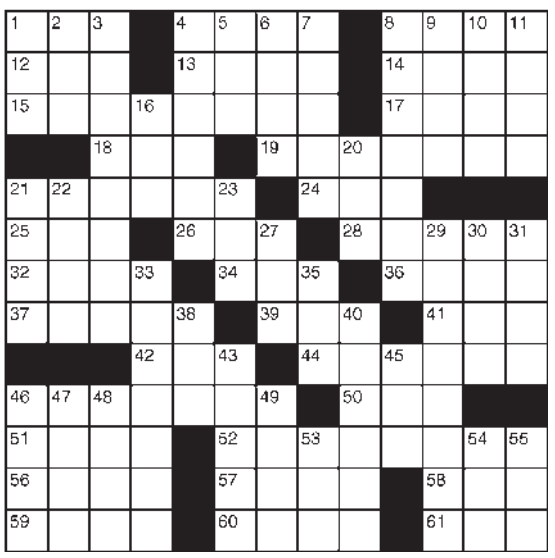
ACROSS
1 "Now, where — I?"
4 Millinery
8 Folder features
12 Newt
13 Diamond Head locale
14 Jacob's brother
15 "Enough!"
17 Milan money, once
18 Group of whales
19 The Emerald Isle
21 Vast multitude
24 Candle count
25 Khan title
26 Sailor
28 Sequence
32 Baseball game souvenirs
34 Baseball's Hodges
36 Crime lab fluids
37 Follow
39 Medico
41 New England cape
42 Train lines (Abbr.)
44 Touched down
46 Popeye's dinner
50 "Help!"
51 Emmy-winner Alan
52 Highway oasis
56 Leeway
57 General Bradley
58 Lennon's partner
59 Between jobs
60 Queen of Carthage
61 Peace, to Caesar

DOWN
1 Director Craven
2 Sternward
3 Temporary fixes
4 Ballpark snack
5 "That feels so good!"
6 Popular Asian cuisine
7 Kama —
8 Bank clerks
9 India's continent
10 Hayloft site
11 Went a-courting?
16 Luau dish
20 "SNL" cast member — Nwodim
21 Lingerie trim
22 Novelist Jennifer
23 Eggy quaff
27 eBay offer
29 Abrupt halt
30 Sea eagle
31 McNally partner
33 Family identifier
35 Online guffaw
38 Historic period
40 Cuba's Fidel
43 Seafood entrée
45 Refusals
46 New Delhi dress
47 Trudge
48 Homophone of 59-Across
49 Half (Pref.)
53 Blue
54 Out — limb
55 Curse

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	U	T		A	M	M	O		N	A	T	O
R	H	O		S	O	A	R		A	R	I	A
O	U	R		H	O	R	S	E	B	A	C	K
C	H	I	E	F				O	N	O		
			L	O	B	E		O	B	E	Y	S
B	A	C	K	R	O	A	D		S	T	O	P
A	G	O		D	O	R	I	A		C	L	E
G	R	A	D		R	O	A	D	S		O	W
S	A	T	A	N		F	L	C	E			
			R	A	Y		R	A	V	E	N	
S	H	O	W	H	O	R	S	E		O	L	E
N	O	R	I		C	E	E	R		W	H	O
L	I	O	N		A	X	E	S		S	I	N

Yesterday's answer 7-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lamar Johnson, 30; Chace Crawford, 39; Kristen Bell, 44; Vin Diesel, 57.

Happy Birthday: Head into new territory and discover what you are missing. Use your imagination this year, and you'll find something exciting to incorporate into your everyday routine. The sky is the limit once you open your mind to the possibilities. Refrain from contemplating when action is necessary to get you to a higher level of learning and living. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 26, 35, 46, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't be fooled by hype or deals that sound too good to be true. Focus on being your best and incorporating what you enjoy doing most into your daily routine. Live life your way and take responsibility for your happiness. Indulge in personal gain, self-help and love. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Put your energy into making changes that offer the freedom to live life by your rules and allow you to create opportunities that lower debt and stress. Discuss your plans with those affected, but be adamant regarding your destination and timeline. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can think big, but don't overstep your boundaries or put yourself in a vulnerable position. Someone will take advantage of you if you give them the chance. Think about your goal and the best way to reach your goal without jeopardizing your position or reputation. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't fear being different; your uniqueness will attract interest and promote the help you require to get what you want. Do what comes naturally and enjoy what comes from interacting with people of interest and participating in new adventures. Share your thoughts, and opportunities will be yours. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Push yourself to achieve stellar health. Start a fitness program or change your eating habits or friends to ensure you have the best advantage in life, love and liberty. Engage in activities that introduce you to people who can benefit your agenda. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Shake things up. Travel, courses, conferences and exploring something that can help you bring about positive lifestyle changes will get you moving in the right direction. Refuse to let emotional situations stand between you and happiness. Change is your passage to peace of mind. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Open a new chapter and start writing about the people, places and pastimes that intrigue you. Knowing what you want is necessary to reach your destination with gratitude and appreciation. Put your energy into building the connections, skills and life tools that lead to success. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pay attention to your spending habits and investments. Although opportunities are present, making the right decision will take work. Research, picking an expert's brain and protecting what you already have will help you avoid loss and stress. Say no to joint ventures, and refuse to argue. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get out and see what's happening in your community. Engage in something that interests you and try to spend time with people who stimulate you mentally, get you moving physically and ease any emotional anxiety you harbor. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Set goals and continue until you reach a level of satisfaction that you can accept. Don't hesitate to make changes at home that allow you to expand your interests and make your space comfortable and convenient. Don't dismiss someone's complaint; listen and compromise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take a moment to study a situation before you leap into action. Understand how your decisions influence your lifestyle, loved ones and prospects. Trying to get others to buy into an odd or obscure plan is a warning sign. Take your time to make a move. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotional reactions will hold you back. It's to your benefit to withhold your feelings. A change may be necessary, but don't cut corners. Everything must be in place for your plans to work to your advantage. Bide your time and pay attention to rules and regulations. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, fun-loving and entertaining. You are imaginative and tolerant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8			1		
	8		6	1				2
1	7	6		2	5	9		
			7	4				
7	5						1	4
8								9
				7	4			5
	3						6	
9		7		3	6	4		

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	5	2	1	6	3	7	4
2	7	4	5	9	3	6	1	8
1	6	3	8	4	7	5	9	2
6	3	9	4	8	5	7	2	1
5	4	2	7	3	1	8	6	9
7	1	8	6	2	9	4	5	3
4	8	6	1	5	2	9	3	7
9	2	7	3	6	8	1	4	5
3	5	1	9	7	4	2	8	6

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Difficulty: ★★★ 7/17

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES Solution: 7 letters

E	T	T	E	U	Q	I	T	E	K	A	C	U	P	S
C	A	N	D	L	E	S	U	R	P	R	I	S	E	S
N	F	A	V	O	R	S	P	A	R	K	L	E	R	N
A	T	O	S	G	N	I	P	P	A	R	W	S	E	N
D	R	O	O	T	G	A	M	E	S	F	M	R	O	S
I	I	G	U	D	N	W	I	S	H	U	D	O	T	N
N	P	S	N	R	W	E	P	C	B	L	L	F	H	O
V	S	E	Z	I	R	P	M	L	I	L	I	O	L	I
I	G	M	N	N	T	R	A	H	A	G	S	I	A	T
T	U	E	E	K	O	S	C	B	S	T	A	H	U	C
A	E	H	G	S	Y	K	O	A	A	E	E	M	G	E
T	S	T	N	N	S	C	D	R	N	N	R	S	H	L
I	T	S	I	L	Y	A	L	P	F	D	N	F	T	F
O	S	S	S	S	P	I	N	A	T	A	S	Y	E	E
N	A	P	K	I	N	S	O	U	V	E	N	I	R	R

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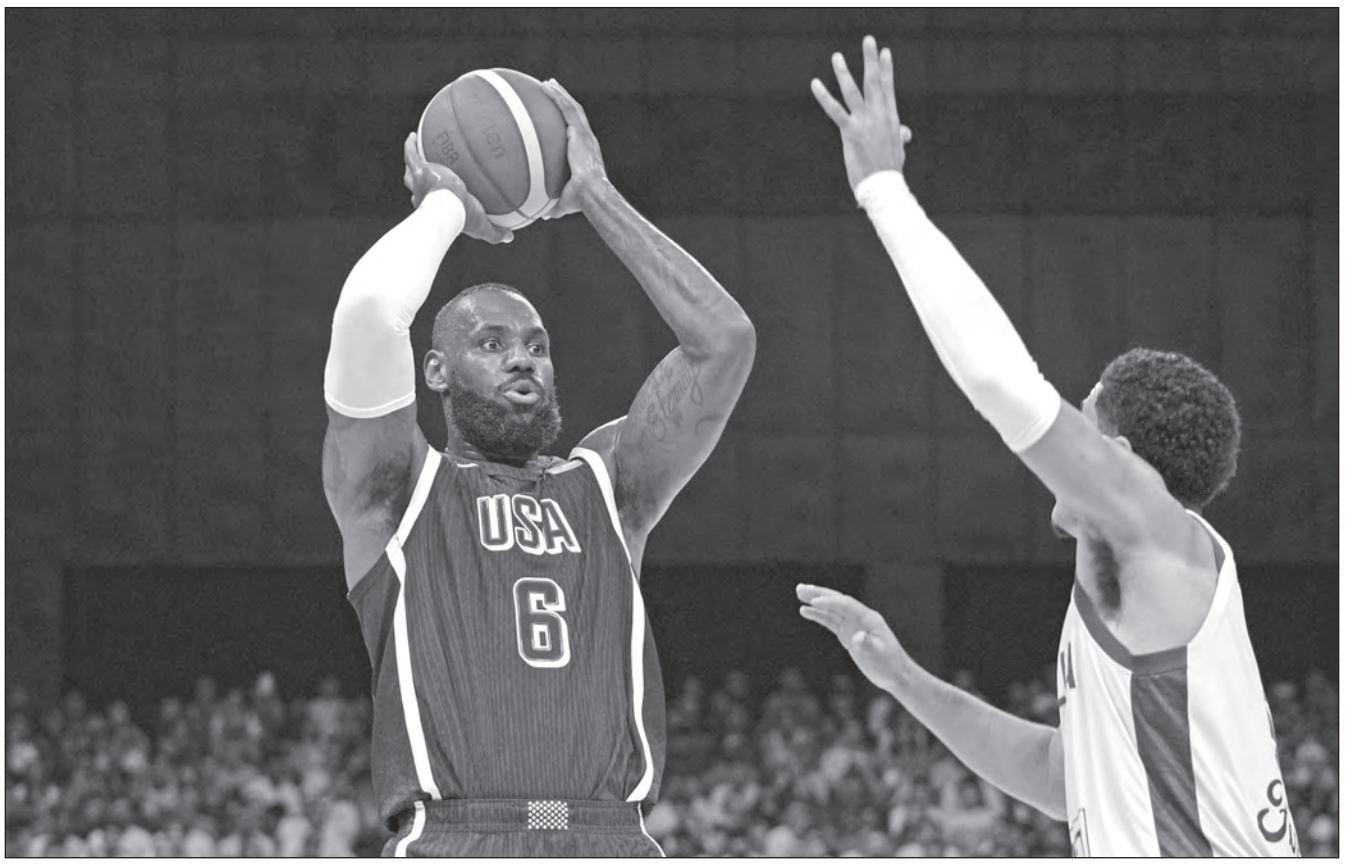
Albums, Balloon, Banner, Cake, Candles, Candy, Children, Cups, Dance, Drinks, Etiquette, Favors, Food, Frosting, Games, Gifts, Guests, Hats, Host, Invitation, Laughter, Magician, Napkins, Piñatas, Plates, Playlist, Prizes, Reflections, Refreshments, Sing, Snacks, Souvenir, Sparkler, Surprises, Themes, Tour, Toys, Trip, Wine, Wish, Wrapping

Yesterday's Answer: Insurance

The NEW **Treasury 58** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

LeBron at 39 still is center of attention for USA Basketball



AP

United States forward LeBron James watches play from the bench during the second half of an exhibition basketball game against Canada, Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—This is how the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team took the floor for warmups before an exhibition game in Abu Dhabi: Stephen Curry opened with a layup, followed by ones from Tyrese Haliburton, Anthony Edwards and Derrick White, and then a short jumper from Devin Booker.

All were met with some cheers. And then LeBron James got the ball in his hands. The crowd got louder immediately, the volume rising until his dunk was met with the loudest roar the arena could muster.

"He's still LeBron," U.S. assistant coach Erik Spoelstra said.

At 39 years old, starting the 22nd season of his pro career, the all-time leader in NBA points, soon to become the first men's player to represent the U.S. at the Olympic Games in three different decades, he's still LeBron. And that's why USA Basketball so badly wanted him on this team that's headed to the Paris Olympics later this month, because there is no question that he makes the team even more of a favorite for what would be a fifth consecutive gold medal.

"Listen, once I got the clearance from Savannah James, that's the one I had to get the clearance from to give up my summer pretty much to play basketball at 39 years old," James said, referring to his wife. "Once I got the clearance from her, I didn't have to have much convincing."

Not after last summer, that is.

James watched the U.S. World Cup team—another team with 12 NBA players, but not 12 players with the pedigree of those on this Olympic roster—struggle last summer in the Philippines and end up with a fourth-place finish. He didn't like it. So, he started calling around, seeing if players like Curry would be willing to play in Paris with hopes of reminding the world that the U.S. is still pretty good at basketball. He didn't have to twist a lot of arms.

"He was the first person I talked to in the fall about would this be something I would want to do," said Curry, who'll be making his Olympic debut. "And from there it was like, 'Let's get it.'"

LeBron's Olympic history

James made his Olympic debut in 2004, fresh off his rookie season, on the team that finished third in the Athens Games. The Redeem Team followed in 2008 and won gold, then the team at the London Games in 2012 won yet again. James hasn't played in the Olympics since. It was reasonable to ask if he ever would again.

The U.S. won Olympic gold at Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and Tokyo three years ago without him, and now tries for a fifth in a row with him back in the fold for presumably the final time.

"He's just meant so much to the game of basketball, especially in my career since I was in high school following him and he's almost 40 years old now," said U.S. forward Kevin Durant, who is seeking a fourth Olympic gold. "He's still playing at an elite level, which is inspiring to me as well. And so, every chance I get to be around LeBron, even if it's just having a quick bite to eat or just seeing him just randomly for a couple of minutes, his energy is just contagious."

It's still there in bunches, too.

When the U.S. team opened camp in Las Vegas, coach Steve Kerr asked two of his assistants – Spoelstra and Tyronn Lue, both of whom have coached James in the NBA—if the intensity that he was practicing with was normal. They nodded.

He goes all out, all the time, even with four NBA titles, even with a Basketball Hall of Fame spot and perpetual place in the never-to-be-solved Greatest Of All Time conversation locked up and with a net worth exceeding $1 billion. He has nothing to prove and still runs himself through defensive slide drills like they're going to decide Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

Kerr sees plenty of similarities between James and Curry, who went head-to-head in four consecutive NBA Finals when Golden State and Cleveland ran the league from 2015 through 2018—and now gets to watch them team up for real for the first time. Curry sees them as well.

"I know exactly what he's about," Curry said. "I get to see a little different side of him in the work that he puts in and how he approaches practice, the way he talks and communicates. I get to see that side of it, which is really, really, really dope. I guess he gets to see that from me as well."

LeBron says 'game is in great hands'

The team is a perfect blend of everything James would have wanted if he was putting the group together himself. Veteran experience with him, Durant and Curry, even though Curry hasn't played the Olympics before. Plenty of bigs to protect the rim in Anthony Davis, Bam Adebayo and Joel Embiid. Championship players—with three players from the current NBA champion Boston Celtics on the roster in Jayson Tatum, Jrue Holiday and White. Young stars in Haliburton, Booker and Edwards.

James won't have to play huge minutes. The idea is for the Americans to use their depth, use a lot of players, keep everyone as fresh as possible and know that no team has anything close to the top-to-bottom talent on their roster as the U.S. does.

And playing one Olympics with many who will be likely looked at for the Los Angeles Games in 2028—like Haliburton and Edwards—is important for James as well.

"The game is in great hands. ... I mean it's just super cool that we can not only show by example, but also just be around them," James said. "They have their thing going as well, so we don't step on their toes and nothing of that nature, but we just hope that we can continue to set a standard for them of what excellence is all about because they're already excellent. I hope we're just setting the standards for them."

In Paris, there will be plenty of people wearing James jerseys, mostly Los Angeles Lakers ones, some USA ones, probably some Miami and Cleveland ones, too. Everything he does and says will make news. Even at this point in his career, the fascination with James hasn't changed. Some love him, some don't, but they're all watching him. After all, like Spoelstra said, he's still LeBron.

"I just feel incredibly honored to be coaching LeBron," Kerr said. "And it's definitely way better to coach him than coach against him."

Jontay Porter, banned from NBA, asks court for permission to resume career in Greece

Jontay Porter, who has been banned from the NBA after admitting that he helped bettors by intentionally underperforming in games, asked a federal court Tuesday for permission to resume his playing career in Greece.

Porter, in a letter sent by attorney Jeff Jensen, is asking that some conditions of his bond be modified so that he can get his U.S. passport back, be allowed to travel in Europe and to reside in Patras, Greece. Jensen told the court that Porter would play for the Greek club Promitheas BC.

Prosecutors have no opposition to the request, Jensen wrote.

"The proposed modification would allow Mr. Porter to pursue a very fortunate—and quickly diminishing—opportunity to earn income through his primary skillset," Jensen wrote. "Mr. Porter, and more importantly his agent, believe such an opportunity is unlikely to arise again. ... Since being banned from the NBA there have been no other opportunities available to continue his basketball career. Mr. Porter has a limited window to earn an income through professional basketball during his prime earning years as a professional athlete."

Porter, 24, pleaded guilty last month to a federal conspiracy crime in the scandal that got him banned from the league. He is free on $250,000 bond while awaiting sentencing set on Dec. 18 and prosecutors have estimated that he could be facing a range from just under three and a half years in prison to a little over four years.

Jensen has said Porter "was in over his head due to a gambling addiction." Porter told the court he has undergone inpatient rehab for a gambling problem and remains in therapy, which is being done virtually and wouldn't be affected by a move to Greece, Jensen said. The Greek club has also arranged in-person counseling for Porter, and plans call for his mother and mother-in-law to regularly be with Porter and his wife in Greece to provide additional family support. Porter's wife is also expecting a baby, Jensen said.

Porter averaged 4.4 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists in 26 games, including five starts for Toronto this past season. He also played in 11 games for Memphis in the 2020-21 season.

Porter was banned by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver in April after a league probe found he disclosed confidential information to sports bettors and wagered on games. ***(AP)***

Kyrie Irving breaks left hand in offseason workout, has surgery

DALLAS (AP)—Kyrie Irving broke his left hand during an offseason workout and had surgery, and the Dallas Mavericks didn't provide a timeline for his recovery in an announcement of the injury Tuesday night.

Irving and Luka Doncic led the Mavericks to the NBA Finals in their first full season together. Boston won the title series in five games.

The 32-year-old Irving averaged 25.6 points in 58 games during the regular season while dealing with foot, heel and thumb injuries.

Irving made his deepest playoff run since going to the finals with Cleveland in 2017, and helped the Mavs get that far for the first time since Dallas won its only championship in 2011.

The team said updates on Irving would be provided as necessary. Training camp opens in about 2 1/2 months.

MLB will consider whether to return to club uniforms in All-Star Game

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Major League Baseball will consider going back to having players wear their team uniforms for the All-Star Game.

Club uniforms were used by the American League from 1933-2019 and by the National League from 1934-2019. When the game resumed in 2021 following the pandemic-related cancellation in 2020, MLB had started a uniform contract with Nike and Fanatics, and All-Stars were outfitted in specially designed league uniforms that drew criticism from traditionalists.

This year's AL uniforms had a sandy base with red sleeves and lettering and the NL had a navy base with light blue sleeves and lettering.

"I'm aware of the sentiment on this issue," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday. "I think where my head is on it, it's something we're going to have a conversation about coming out of the All-Star Game. We've got a lot of uniform things going on. And, obviously, the conversations have to involve the players first and foremost but Nike, some of our partners. But I am aware of the sentiment, and I do know why people kind of like that tradition."

MLB and Nike were criticized for club uniforms this year and said in May that 2025 club outfits will have larger lettering on the back of jerseys and individual pant customization.

AP

American League players line up before the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 16, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

Players complained this year that white pants worn by some teams are see-through enough to show tucked-in jersey tops.

Regional sports networks

Manfred said a national steaming package of local television broadcasts is a future possibility.

"I could see a situation where we grow into a 30-club model. It might start on the digital side, where you have 14 or 15 clubs, and, you start with a digital product there as your first alternative," he said.

"I was in Sun Valley last week and I did the whole speed-dating thing with everybody who's ever streamed anything. When you talk to people in the streaming business, they're not really interested in buying the state of Wisconsin and two counties in Michigan," Manfred added. "They want to be able to stream quite frankly, all over the U.S. and Canada but more broadly internationally. So I think those conversations are a product of owners saying, holy cow, the RSN business is really deteriorating. We know the future's going to be streaming. What we're hearing from the streamers is they want a more national product, and we need to be responsive to what people want to buy."

MLB took over production of Arizona and San Diego local television broadcasts last year following the bankruptcy of Diamond Sports' Bally networks and said MLB will be available as an option for teams looking for new deals. He said Padres game are approaching 40,000 subscribers, which he called a good figure.

"Having said that, from a revenue perspective it is not generating what the RSNs did," Manfred said. "The RSNs were a great business. Lots of people paid for programing they didn't necessarily want. And it's hard to replicate that kind of revenue absent that kind of bundling concept."

Offense

While offense is near half-century lows, it has picked up from early in the season.

"The decline in offense is something that we're paying a lot of attention to and we'll continue to monitor to make a decision as to whether we think we need to do something. You do hear a lot of chatter about the dominance of pitching in the game. That's absolutely true."

Birmingham

After the success of the June 20 game between San Francisco and St. Louis at Rickwood Field, Manfred said MLB will return to the ballpark in Birmingham, Alabama, but the "exact form" had not been determined.

Sons of former big-league stars Ortiz, Ramirez, Grudzielanek among draft picks in late rounds

By DAVID BRANDT
AP Baseball Writer

Major League Baseball's three-day amateur draft concluded on Tuesday, with the 30 teams blazing through 300 picks in less than 3 1/2 hours.

There were some familiar last names selected on the final day, which consisted of rounds 11 through 20.

The Los Angeles Angels took outfielder Lucas Ramirez in the 17th round. Ramirez is the son of 12-time All-Star Manny Ramirez. The Boston Red Sox selected D'Angelo Ortiz in the 19th round and he's the son of Hall of Fame slugger David Ortiz.

"We just felt like it was a good add to the organization," Red Sox director of amateur scouting Devin Pearson said. "It's a plus that his dad is David Ortiz, but we drafted him as a prospect."

In the 20th round, the Toronto Blue Jays took USC shortstop Bryce Martin-Grudzielanek, who is the son of former All-Star Mark Grudzielanek.

Among the other draftees with MLB family ties was Jalen Hairston, whose father, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-uncle played in the big leagues. Hairston was taken in the 18th round by Cincinnati.

Dawson Brown was taken in the 16th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks. His dad is six-time All-Star pitcher Kevin Brown. Bennett Thompson, who was selected in the 13th round by the Cleveland Guardians, is the nephew of three-time All-Star Jason Thompson.

The Mariners took outfielder Ryan Picollo in the 20th round. He's the son of Royals general manager J.J. Picollo.

The Oakland Athletics opened the afternoon by selecting Texas Tech right-handed pitcher Kyle Robinson with the first pick of the 11th round. That set off 10 more rounds worth of selections—separated by approximately 45 seconds per pick — until the Texas Rangers took junior college catcher Mac Rose with the last selection of the 20th round.

There were 11 players selected from Mississippi State over the 20 rounds, which led all colleges. LSU had nine players drafted.

Australian second baseman Travis Bazzana was taken by the Cleveland Guardians with the No. 1 overall pick on Sunday.

Right-handed pitcher Drew Beam, who was the workhorse of Tennessee's College World Series-winning pitching staff, was one of the first picks on Monday, which featured rounds three to 10.

It's not particularly rare for teams to find useful players—or even superstars—in rounds 11 through 20. Former slugger Albert Pujols hit 703 career homers in the big leagues after he was taken in the 13th round of the 1999 draft. Hall of Famers like Andre Dawson (11th round), Nolan Ryan (12th round) and Ryne Sandberg (20th round) were also late-round selections.

With the draft finished, MLB's 30 teams will begin contract negotiations with draft picks.

Those with remaining college eligibility may sign until Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. EDT, with the remainder having until a week before the 2025 draft.

Only one player chosen in the first 10 rounds failed to reach an agreement last year: UC Irvine outfielder Caden Kendle returned for his senior year after he was selected by St. Louis in the 10th round with the 305th pick.

The gamble paid off. Kendle was a fifth-round selection by the Twins this season.

While most draft picks spend years in the minors, there are exceptions. Third baseman Nolan Schanuel made his major league debut last Aug. 18, 40 days after the Los Angeles Angels drafted him 11th overall, and Texas outfielder Wyatt Langford was on this year's opening-day roster.

Manfred remains open to major leaguers in 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Major League Baseball players participating in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics remains a possibility, according to baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, though many obstacles remain to Shohei Ohtani, Aaron Judge and Bryce Harper playing for a gold medal.

Baseball was a medal sport from 1992-2008, then was dropped until the 2021 Tokyo Games, when MLB allowed the participation only of players not on 40-man rosters. Even then, many eligible prospects were blocked by their clubs from playing.

While baseball was dropped for this year's Paris Olympics, it was restored for 2028. LA 2028 chairman Casey Wasserman gave MLB owners a presentation in February on how major leaguers could participate.

"I sat with Casey last week. We're talking about what can be done? What exactly would it look like? What are the compromises that we would have to make in terms of our season? So I remain open-minded on that topic," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"I do think that maybe the thing that I found most persuasive that Casey is saying is forget about what's going to happen with baseball in the Olympics long-term because I think we all know when you're in Paris they're probably not going to build a baseball stadium, right?" Manfred added. "But, but when you're in LA, you focus on LA. It is an opportunity that we need to think about."

Japan beat the U.S. in the 2021 Olympic gold medal game with a national team boosted when Nippon Professional Baseball interrupted its season.

Who pays for insurance for major leaguers would be an issue. And even in the World Baseball Classic, a project of MLB and the Major League Baseball Players Association, many top players were blocked by their teams, especially starting pitchers. At last year's WBC, Mets closer Edwin Diaz tore his right patellar tendon while celebrating a Puerto Rico victory and missed the 2023 season.

"The feedback that we've gotten so far from players is such that there is an interest in participating if given an opportunity," union head Tony Clark told the BBWAA, speaking before Manfred. "So we expect, at least as of right now based on the feedback that we've gotten, that'll be a conversation we'll look to have. But the players will determine whether or to what extent that is something that needs to be leaned in on, not just for 2028, but I think it's probably an important discussion to be had beyond 2028, knowing that the opportunity to have it in 2028 could be a building block toward it being more consistently in the Olympics moving forward."

TEAM

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Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho, and family, friends, and supporters.

All eight sports won a medal—with the most medals won by the NMI National Team Swim Team. Their bounty consisted of 49 gold, 15 silver, and 14 bronze.

Isaiah Aleksenko won nine gold; Kean Pajarillaga collected seven gold and one silver; Maria Batallones gathered nine gold and three silver; Frances Raho won four gold, two silver and two bronze; Kouki Watanabe grabbed three gold, three silver, one bronze; and Shoko Litulumar won two gold medals and six silver medals; Justin Ma won five bronze; Richard Zhao had one bronze; Sari Barman won three bronze; and Maria Guerrero won two bronze. Nagi Tenorio completed the swim team and they were coached by Hiroyuki Kimura, Richard Sikkel, David Roberto Jr., Christian Villacrusis, and managed by Yuko Kimura.

LEIGH GASES

First-time Micro Games athlete and three-time gold medalist weightlifter Kaya Rasa addresses the crowd and Team NMI during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

The NMI National Athletics Team hauled in 13 medals—five gold, two silver, and six bronze medals. Gold medals were won by Tania Tan with three, and Lyle Andrew and Maria Quitugua with one each; Simon Tang and Cody Shimizu won a silver medal each; and bronze was won by Lia Rangamar, Daniel Joab, Andrew, Justin Camacho, and Quitugua with two.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI National Women's Basketball Team along with some members of the NMI National Men's Basketball Team pose for a group photo with their incentives during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI National Athletics Team poses with their cash incentives and medals during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI National Beach Volleyball Team poses with their incentives during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

The NMI National Tennis Team brought home seven gold medals and two bronze. It was a clean sweep for all events as the team consisted of Isabel Heras, Robbie Schorr, Colin Ramsey, Hoo Wang, Si Woo Lee, Irin Chung, Hannah Chae. Wang and Ramsey won one bronze, while Chung won the other bronze. They were coached and managed by Jeff Race and John Bradley, and were joined by technical official Lydia Tan.

The NMI National Weightlifting Team won three gold, five silver, and four bronze medals. Kaya Rasa swept her division and won three gold, Lowell Cristobal bagged two silver and one bronze, Riella Ichiuo snatched three silver, and flag bearer Antonette Labausa won three bronze. The rest of the team were made up of Jaden Andrew, Lucio Eugenio, and Joseph Pangelinan and were coached by John Davis.

The comeback of NMI wrestling showed a strong debut with their sweep of three gold medals each for a total of six gold by Ryan Babauta and James Attao-Greene Jr. They were coached and managed by Rick Bauer and Jason Tarkong.

The NMI Women's National Basketball Team won silver. They were made up of Azzy Fatialofa, Madelein Alegre, Alliyah Fernandez, are Sylvina Simram, Yasmeen Younis, Kaia Travilla, Michelle Kautz, Lia Rangamar, Destiny Pangelinan, Lalaine Pagarao, Cassandra Camacho, and were coached by Connie Camacho.

The NMI Women's National Fastpitch Softball Team won its first ever medal in the Micro Games with a bronze. They were made up of Ashlie Aguon, Christy Aldan, Jaylina Borja, Kiara Borja, Angel Deleon Guerrero, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Jenisha Dubrall, Mayiah Duenas, Britney Gopez, Destiny Pangelinan, Alannah Sablan, Rosie Saralu, Kiana Aldan, Jhaneeka Atalig, Kiana Camacho, and Keolani Rios. The coaches were Manny Sablan, Derron Flores, Mariano Aguon, and Mark Flores.

The NMI National Beach Volleyball Team won a bronze each in the men's and women's division. Aurora Santos and Kathy Winkfield bagged bronze in the women's division, while Dylan Mister and Jermaine Salas bagged bronze in the men's division.

LEIGH GASES

Some members of the NMI National Tennis Team poses with their incentives during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

First-time Micro Games athlete and gold medalist Kaya Rasa of weightlifting made some remarks toward the end of the ceremony.

She said, "We extend our gratitude to all our sponsors for their incredible support in making this a reality for Team NMI. Your generous contributions have not only provided us with resources, but also fueled our passion and commitment to achieving our goals. Your belief in our vision and unwavering support have been instrumental in our journey. We look forward to making you proud and continuing the successful partnership. Thank you for being an integral part of our team's success."

She then addressed the team and said, "Your dedication, hard work, and perseverance have truly paid off. This remarkable achievement is a testament to our passion and unwavering determination. Our victory not only brings honor to us, but also to everyone who has supported us along the way. May these achievements be the beginning of many triumphs in our journey."

She also thanked her coach John Davis, Antonette Labausa, and her weightlifting teammates.

Team NMI's participation in the 2024 Micronesian Games was supported by the following sponsors: Joeten Daidai Foundation, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Skechers, Marianas Express Lines Ltd. as platinum sponsors. Triple J Enterprise, E-Land, TakeCare Insurance, and D&Q International Distributors were gold sponsors. RNV Construction, Bank of Guam, IT&E, Dial-Rent-to-Own, Chinese Association of Saipan, Black Construction Corporation, GPPC, and Matson were silver sponsors. And P&A Corporation, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, McDonald's Jose and Ruri Foundation, Y.K. Corp., Zoom Cafe, Artman Corp., and I Love Saipan were bronze sponsors.

LEIGH GASES

Some members of the NMI National Weightlifting Team poses with their incentives during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

Some members of the NMI National Wrestling Team poses with their incentives during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI National Fastpitch Women's Softball Team poses with their incentives during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI National Swim Team poses with their incentives during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

KARATE

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ter of Shinkyokushinkai Guam Dojo under Chris Biolchino.

Banez, the sensei or teacher of the dojo, said that he is ready to fight and is excited to compete. "I'm proud to compete and this is my first time to compete for the island in another country," he said. He then asks for people's prayers and encourages the youth to hopefully compete for the islands internationally.

For Atalig, he said he is "excited and looking forward to this historical moment when sensei Danny Banez is finally able to bring CNMI participants for the first time in the World Karate Organization (WKO) Tournament."

"Proud to see that sensei Danny Banes is finally fulfilling his dream to participate after 32 years of commitment to bringing martial arts to the CNMI since 1992. We are really happy and rooting for him," said Atalig.

Diaz, who bagged gold in last year's WKO Shinkyokushinkai Full Contact Karate Championship, said he is honored to represent the CNMI. "Grateful for the support of my family who will travel with me and humbled for all the sponsors [who] shared their trust and confidence to represent the CNMI," he said. "This is CNMI's first time to send a representative to compete internationally. I hope this will be a stepping stone for future youth and adult karate athletes and practitioners to compete at [an] international level."

Floyd, who won gold in the senior men's division of last April's WKP Shinkyokushinkai Championship in Guam, shared that he is ready to represent. He said he is staying loose and confident and has put in the work and is now ready to take on international competition.

PAPA

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Navigation, Coca-Cola/Foremost, Pacifica Insurance, Century Insurance Co. Ltd., RNV Construction, Bridge Capital Investments, LLC, United Management International, JEM Mobile Stations, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods Store, Pacific Basin Insurance, and Tinian Shipping.

LeBron at 39 still is center of attention for USA Basketball
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

MLB will consider whether to return to club uniforms in All-Star Game
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FOR HISTORIC MICRO GAMES PERFORMANCE

Team NMI awarded cash incentives

NMSA

Team NMI athletes of the 10th Micronesian Games, right, pose for a drone group photo during the appreciation ceremony for Team NMI's record-breaking performance in the Republic of Marshall Islands at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Team NMI's historic run in the 10th Micronesian Games held in the Republic of Marshall Islands last month is now forever etched in the history books, and they were thanked for their record-breaking performance with cash incentives last Tuesday night in an appreciation ceremony at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Incentives were given to medalists based on the medals they won, as well as for athletes who did not win medals.

It was $500 per gold medal, $300 per silver medal, and $200 per bronze medal, with a cap of $2,000 if an athlete won four gold or other medals.

The ceremony was attended by Team NMI athletes and officials of the eight sports federations, the sponsors, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Northern Marianas Sport Association board president Jerry Tan and board members,

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Papa San catches biggest wahoo; *Hello Fishy* nets total weight

LEIGH GASES

The crew of *Papa San* poses with their trophy during the awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club last Monday of the two-day Saipan Fishermen's Association 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament held last weekend.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saipan vessel *Papa San* caught the biggest wahoo, while *Hello Fishy*'s bounty landed atop the total weight category of the two-day Saipan Fishermen's Association 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament last weekend.

All five categories' top winners—billfish, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, mahimahi, and skipjack—were announced in an awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Monday night.

Papa San, captained by Jack Torres, topped the wahoo category sponsored by Docomo Pacific with their 35.5-lb. catch. Second was *Saigon Girl* with 26.5 lbs., and third was *My Princess Jasmine* at 24.9 lbs.

The Mobil Total Weight category was won by *Hello Fishy* with the heaviest overall haul of 319.4 lbs.

The heaviest yellowfin—which was sponsored by Paradise Dental, was caught by *Chang* with their 52.9-lb fish. Second was *Carmelita II* at 46.9 lbs., and third was *Emmanuel* at 45.6 lbs.

On the first day last Saturday, down south, *Papa San* caught a fish head that weighed 15 lbs. alone. The next day, they then went south again because Torres wanted to honor his late friend Paul Roberto. There, three minutes after they dropped a lure, they hooked the winning wahoo.

He said he's been fishing in the tournament for about 18 years and it's the first time he's placed. "We've caught fish every year, but we've never placed in any of the categories. This is the first time. I thank captain Paul—I think he's blessing us."

Torres then thanked his late friend for watching over them, and dedicated their win to him, his mom, and his late dad.

Torres is also a member of the SFA and said, "People don't realize how much work is put into this tournament… It's just so much work, but, at the end of the day, it's just very fulfilling. Everyone is here celebrating our fishermen and the camaraderie between the CNMI and Guam."

Derby chair Curtis Dancoe said this year's turnout of 90 boats from the CNMI, Guam, and the U.S.A. was a great one.

"The first day, the weather was optimal, but the second day was kind of rough. What's interesting this year is that it looked bigger in the boat. They just kept saying, 'gee, it looked bigger in the boat.' And when they came to the weigh station, it wasn't the case. So I thought that was hilarious… but we're really happy and it's fun."

Tournament sponsors are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Mobil Oil Marianas, Budweiser, Docomo Pacific, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Paradise Dental, Hawaiian Rock Products, Matson

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Karate team off to Japan for int'l championship

WKO Shinyokushinkai Mariana Islands
WKO Guam
WKO Northern Mariana Islands

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES

From left, Jerry Diaz, Eric Atalig, sensei Danny Banez, and Spencer Floyd pose for a group photo as they represent the CNMI in its first international karate competition, the Karate Dream Festival 2024 International Championship, which will be held from July 20-21 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

The CNMI's karate team made up of Danny Banez, Spencer Floyd, and Jerry Diaz, who are coached by Eric Atalig, is set to compete for the first time internationally in the Karate Dream Festival 2024 International Championship which will be held from July 20 to 21 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

Banez is competing in the senior black belt division, while Floyd and Diaz are taking on the senior rookie division in the tournament that draws many martial artists from all over the world.

For Banez, Floyd, and Diaz of the CNMI Martial Arts Academy of Self-Defense-Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo, this is their first time competing internationally. As the CNMI is now recognized as the 106th country of the World Karate Organization, they are now able to compete anywhere around the world.

This was made possible because the CNMI is now a chap-

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